

Jenkin  
eases  
squeeze  
on Tory  
shires

There is hardly anything in the world that some man cannot make a little worse and a little cheaper; and the people who consider price only are the most harmful prey of business.

But for quality...

**Went-Away**

# THE GUARDIAN

Printed in London and Manchester

Saturday July 27 1985 25p

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## Businessman in JMB affair accused of threatening witness

# MP levels new fraud claims at bank

By Margaret Pagano and Alan Travis

Fresh allegations of fraud against several leading figures involved in the collapse of Johnson Matthey Bankers were made in the Commons yesterday by the Labour MP, Mr Brian Sedgmore.

Mr Sedgmore, the MP for Hackney, South, produced documented evidence of fresh allegations of fraud against two of JMB's former customers and the former directors of the bank, which collapsed last year with losses of £248 million.

He also claimed that associates of one of the leading figures in the JMB affair, Mr Michael Hepker, had threatened to "blow the legs off a witness".

Mr Sedgmore, whose Commons statement is protected by parliamentary privilege, added that he had warned the police of threats made against himself, his former wife Mary, and his son.

But Mr Hepker, a former lecturer and author of several books on tax, had refused to answer questions on the Commons.

Mr Sedgmore had already indicated that he was prepared to repeat some of the allegations outside the Commons.

"The allegations are based on unsubstantiated information from a disgruntled employee whose background is highly questionable and whom I was obliged to dismiss in January this year. As for the absurdly incorrect information such as my threatening to blow a witness's legs off — it's frankly laughable," said Mr Hepker.

He added that Mr Sedgmore's allegations had not only ruined his own business reputation but could harm the jobs of 300 people who employ at his textile company, Sumrie Cloth, based in Leeds. He claimed that he had evidence of blackmail, perjury, and forgery against certain people.

Mr Hepker also claims that all Mr Sedgmore's information comes from Mr Pat Benson, the former chief executive who now runs a public house in Islington.

Mr Sedgmore added that Mr Hepker was a "tax expert who originally drew up schemes for tax avoidance and went on to massive tax evasion. This is going to be the case which smashes off-shore tax evasion. Mr Hepker's time is running out. He is under investigation. There are several files, inches thick, by the special investigations branch of the Inland Revenue."

Mr Sedgmore took advantage of the last day of a parliamentary session to make the allegations, some of which he said he was prepared to repeat outside the House.



FAST TON: Ian Botham hit the fastest century of the season in 50 balls for Somerset against Warwickshire at Edgbaston yesterday. Report, page 13

## US tells South Africa to end emergency rule

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The United States called on South Africa yesterday to end the state of emergency and restore civil liberties in the black townships. The Administration's move, representing a significant policy shift, follows widespread international and domestic protests about the activities of the white minority regime.

In recent days the Administration has clung to its established formula of condemning apartheid while refusing to blame the Government in Pretoria for the escalation of violence and the wave of arrests since the state of emergency was declared last weekend.

Yesterday's statement therefore came as a surprise. "We call on the Government of South Africa to act with greatest restraint at this time," Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said. "It is essential that the Government in Pretoria respect the fundamental rights of all South Africans."

The US has stopped short of supporting moves in the United Nations and in Congress to impose immediate economic sanctions on Pretoria. But the change in tone from the White House suggests that patience in Washington with "constructive engagement" is wearing thin and that if Congress begins to move its sanctions bill against using the veto which until now has been widely expected.

The US statement came at a time when Pretoria has been seeking to restore relations with Washington which have been strained because of last month's raid by South Africa into Botswana. According to reliable diplomatic sources, the South Africans had requested a top-level meeting in Europe, but the White House was notably cool on this suggestion, describing it as "speculative."

"We want the state of emergency removed," Mr Speakes said. He maintained that the US would continue its policy of constructive engagement, but in effect the decision to speak out on the state of emergency by-passes a policy which has largely been based on the assumption that the key to progress in South Africa was putting pressure on the regime for change through quiet diplomacy.

Officials said the White House had changed its mind on the state of emergency when it became clear that the continuing violence and bloodshed there (in South Africa) had not abated. It had become clear that the emergency, instead of bringing calm to a troubled situation, was not producing the results Pretoria had intended.

The Administration's sudden turn is back page, col. 1

## Police arrest conman suspect

By Gareth Parry

A MAN wanted for questioning by police investigating a number of incidents in which old people were drugged and robbed after his escape from prison three months ago was in custody yesterday after inquiring if any elderly people had houses for sale.

The man, named by police as Sidney Noble, aged 56, was detained in Woking, Surrey after the town had been sealed off. An estate agent became suspicious after he claimed to be a doctor and "waving a banker's draft for £60,000, asked for property owned by elderly clients."

After leaving the estate agent's, the man went to a house in Walton Road, Woking, where he had expressed interest in a house, saying that he wanted to buy it and convert it into a surgery. He was arrested as he walked up the road.

The incidents being investigated by police include: in one week last month an 82-year-old widow was drugged and robbed of £230 at South-end by a man who gave her a capsule for rheumatism. A widow and her brother-in-law, both aged 84, were also robbed of £50 by a man who gave them similar capsules at their home in Eastbourne, east Sussex.

Last weekend police ignored an incident at the home of a 70-year-old widow at Millbrook, Southampton, in which a man tried to give the woman tablets for a headache but she refused. He nevertheless stayed the night, proposed marriage, then left, saying that he was going to Italy.

Police later admitted their mistake, blaming it on "inexperienced judgment by a less than positive officer." The man claimed to be a wealthy guest-house owner. Police visited the house 29 hours afterwards, but he had gone.

Noble walked into the estate agent's in the centre of Woking yesterday morning. He said that he was a doctor attached to Guy's Hospital, and was on his way to perform an operation at Guildford hospital.

Turn to back page, col. 4

## Child abuse monitoring to be stepped up

By Alan Travis

Social workers are to receive new guidelines on their approach to child abuse cases in the wake of the life sentence for murder imposed on the father of Tyra Henry, the baby who died of severe head injuries, her body covered in human bites.

Mr John Patten, a junior social services minister, hopes to publish the guidelines before Christmas. For the first time they will include instructions on child sex abuse.

Although the judge in the Tyra Henry case said that he could find no fault whatever with the social services for their handling of the case, councillors in the London borough of Lambeth, where the baby lived, insisted that the case had shown up failures of their staff.

Mr Patten yesterday attacked what he called political interference by Labour councillors in the professional judgments of Lambeth's social work staff.

"I don't think councillors should give in to the temptation, having laid down policy guidelines, to interfere in professional judgments. That is not their role," he said.

The minister said that there had been a levelling off, even a decline, in child abuse cases, but there had been a rise in extremes that people may say the number of cases reported, and particularly cases of sexual abuse.

"The recent tragic case had brought home to us all the sad to be abusing their children. But for rare extremes. All is not failure."

The guidelines will incorporate a six-point strategy towards child abuse which the minister claimed would be definitive.

## Museums face fresh pressure to impose admission charges

By Nicholas de Jongh, Arts Correspondent

National museums and art galleries are facing increased pressure to impose admission charges because of plans for a new system of financing.

Lord Gowrie, the Arts Minister, disclosed yesterday that the Government aims to give the nine museums and galleries annual grants, which will be a percentage of each institution's running costs. They will be expected to find the balance they require.

As an incentive to accept the new scheme, about which Lord Gowrie does not appear to have consulted the directors of the museums — the minister would allow the institutions to keep any profit. Profits must currently be spent in the same financial year and anything left has to be returned to the Exchequer.

Lord Gowrie explained in a written answer in the House of Lords that the proposed system would provide greater incentives for the national museums and galleries to maximise their receipts, adding: "Whether by their vote-financed trading activities such as shops, by charging for admission where appropriate, or in other ways."

Although the minister said that he intended to consult the national museums and galleries about the proposals the Office of Arts and Libraries indicated that the Government intended to change the system anyway.

## Mortgages to cost less in September

By Margaret Pagano and Margaret Dibbon

Building society mortgages will cost less from September 1 and bank loans will be cheaper next week, after the Bank of England's clear signal to its markets yesterday for a cut in interest rates.

After the decision late on Thursday by the Halifax and Abbey National, the country's two largest societies, to reduce home loans for new borrowers by 0.75 per cent and to abolish differentials for large loans, the National and Provincial and Britannia yesterday followed suit.

But the other big societies are waiting to make their announcements in the next few weeks, and the Building Societies Association may call a special meeting of council members in August to decide on an industry-wide reduction.

The new mortgage rate announced this week is 13.25 per cent for new borrowers of repayments loans. Endowment mortgages will be 13.75 per cent. Societies had been discussing a full 1 per cent drop in rates from the present basic 14 per cent, but they cannot afford to do this as well as abolishing differentials.

Existing borrowers will probably pay less from September 1, but societies have not yet decided where to pitch their investment rates.

The Bank's decision to cut its dealing rate by 0.5 per cent will prompt the clearing banks to reduce their base rates by the same amount early next week.

## Literally villainous, literarily sublime

From Paul Webster in Paris

France's top-selling writer, Marguerite Duras, only had to sniff the atmosphere outside Christine Villamin's house to solve the mystery surrounding the murder of Christine's four-year-old son, Gregory.

The deductions and methods of Miss Duras, last year's Goncourt prize winner, have been condemned by rival best-selling women writers. In a joint cry of "Scandal!" they have accused her of inventing a Greek tragedy or creating a character from one of her own novels to justify a plunge into poetic fantasy.

Simone Signoret, Françoise Sagan, and Regine Deforges, all of whom have had top best-sellers during the past year to rival Miss Duras's prize-winning *L'Amant*, have been supported by other influential writers, including Françoise Mallet-Joris, Michele Perrein, and the feminist pioneer, Benoite Groult.

Gregory's body was found in a river near his home. His mother, aged 28, is under house arrest, accused of his murder, the second member of a tightly-knit clan to come under suspicion of bringing a violent end to the eastern French farming community. A cousin, Bernard Laroche, was shot dead by Christine's husband after being cleared of the murder.

Under French law, anyone can speculate publicly on a crime without risking contempt of court. Miss Duras did not meet Christine nor any other leading figure in the tangled murder investigation, preferring to speculate publicly on a crime to reveal through the filter

of the Vosges seeking subjective waves of poetic intuition. As a result, her conclusions were even disowned by Liberation. But her elevation of Christine to the role of "the woman of the bare hills" whose self-abnegating crime inspired by "a daily hatred of men" transcended the murder, has become the intellectual debate of the summer.

Miss Signoret said Miss Duras had invented a character "from her own novels covered by a sort of provincial Bovaryism. She is an ambiguous mixture of the 19th century and modern literature." But Miss Signoret said that, in fact, Christine faked her "little comforts" such as a car, a fridge, and records.

Miss Sagan said Miss Duras was trying to invent a "mythical" role for Christine, whom she had never even seen,

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## Coroner adjourns inquest after 40-minute discussion

# Bradford blaze jury needs more time for verdict

By Malcolm Piters

The jury hearing the inquest into the deaths of 56 people in the Bradford fire asked the coroner yesterday for an adjournment of the hearing to allow them more time to consider a verdict.

The request was made by the foreman of the jury 40 minutes after being sent out to reach a verdict.

The coroner, Mr James Turnbull, told the jury that they must take as long as they wanted. It had been thought that the jury of seven women and three men would reach a decision yesterday.

The coroner's officer, Sergeant Richard Anale, announced that the inquest would be resumed on Monday.

Summing up, the coroner told the jury that they could not, under coroner's rules, return a verdict couched in such a way as to imply any criminal or civil liability by individuals.

Since he expected them to put forward various recommendations for the future, he would take those in writing and in private before making them public to make sure that the rules were not contravened.

He told the jury that they had to deal with a high level of proof in reaching their verdict. He explained that there were four possible verdicts available to them: unlawful killing, accidental death, misadventure, and open.

To reach a verdict of unlawful killing they would have to be certain that somebody did something which was totally reckless. There was not a shred of evidence to suggest that a particular person did anything.

An open verdict would be available if they did not know the cause.

The jury has throughout the inquest questioned witnesses. Yesterday, the foreman asked a forensic scientist giving evidence about the litter under the main stand if industrial cleaners, vacuums or hoses could have been used, along with rakes, to clear any accumulated rubbish. The scientist, Mr Roy Cook, said he felt that a comprehensive clearing of

the rubbish could not have been done without some dismantling of the stand.

The jury disagreed with the coroner's report in a conclusion that fire extinguishers and hose reels would have been useless at the ground without trained personnel to use them.

Mr Clarke told the inquest that hand-held fire extinguishers could have spread the fire rather than put it out.

He said: "The structure of the stand and the seating was such that no small extinguishers could have been expected to reach all the burning materials. When the fire was first seen it is quite likely that the structure was already alight above."

"It would have required not a hand-held extinguisher but a full hose reel with a proper fire hose to guarantee extinguishing the fire."

It could have possibly exacerbated the fire by using a small extinguisher and could have spread it down the seating setting off other smaller fires.

Mr Cook described the huge amounts of debris under the stand, including hundreds of cigarette ends, boxes of unlit matches, drink cans and confectionery wrappers, up to eight inches deep, many of them bearing prices before the disaster in 1971.

One newspaper found under the stand was dated back 1968.

Mr Cook discounted reports of a smoke bomb causing the blaze, saying that none of the occupants of Block C, where the fire began, saw any missile and there were no reports of the dense smoke normally associated with such devices.

Detective Superintendent Kevin Cooper, the senior police officer who was at the match during the fire and who later investigated it, told the jury that the police inquiry was now complete and he was satisfied that the fire had started accidentally from a dropped match, a cigarette or pipe tobacco igniting litter under the stand.

He dismissed as "wholly inaccurate and misleading" a report in the Daily Star which said that a "smoke bomb" had started the fire.

## Sogat seeks place in Shah agreement

By Jane McLoughlin, Industrial Relations Correspondent

Leaders of the print union Sogat '82 have had talks with the electricians' union EETPU to seek a deal for co-existence within its single-union, no-strike agreement covering Mr Eddie Shah's proposed national daily paper.

Miss Brenda Dean, general secretary of Sogat, said they had had "a very good meeting" and she would be seeing her national union colleagues Wednesday to consult them on the results.

The EETPU agreement would give it sole recognition and bargaining rights, in effect excluding the traditional print production unions, Sogat and the NGA.

Miss Dean said: "Ideally, we would like our traditional representation rights to be preserved. It is very irritating that the EETPU has taken this step towards a single union agreement, but they haven't signed any deals yet. They may have the upper hand in the Shah situation, but they are very vulnerable in Fleet Street — far more than we are."

We control newspaper distribution round the country, and it seems that Mr Shah is very vulnerable on distribution, which is an important area if he is going to print in partnership with Sunderland. He can't avoid us."

It is the area where Sogat may have a strong argument for inclusion in the project. Miss Dean says that with new technology, the EETPU could probably fulfil most of the other functions involved in newspaper production which

were once the province of Sogat and the NGA. The TUC printing industries committee will discuss the situation at a meeting next week. The TUC general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, has already asked the electricians' union to delay a decision on sole union agreement until there has been discussion with other unions involved.

The Financial Times was granted an injunction in the High Court yesterday to stop its 450 secretarial and clerical workers from taking daily guerrilla strike action in different departments of the newspaper from next week.

The clerical staff, members of Sogat, had decided on the action in support of 26 secretaries on the Financial Times Business Information Service, a separate company. They have been offered a pay rise dependent on acceptance of 21 hours a week compulsory overtime, which Mr Michael Eastwell, spokesman for the Financial Times Sogat chapter, said was a breach of the contract of employment.

## Law Society protest

By Martin Linton

The Law Society has complained that a two-tier system of legal aid for suspects is putting a number of people at risk.

On Tuesday, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, announced limits on free legal advice of up to £90 for suspects being questioned about arrestable offences, but only up to £50 for other offences or for people who are "voluntarily" helping police with their inquiries.

Yesterday the Law Society urged officials at the Lord Chancellor's department to drop this system on the grounds that such an arbitrary distinction might result in unfairness for suspect and difficulties for duty solicitors.

"There are people particularly at risk such as juveniles,

the mentally handicapped, people with poor command of English and so on, and the solicitor called to see such people would rightly think that they should stay around to give advice as long as the suspect needed it," said Mr Andrew Lockley of the Law Society.

## OBITUARY

### US playwright

PHILIP MAGDALANY, the American playwright whose works included *Section 9*, produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company at the Aldwych in 1975, has died of pneumonia in New York at the age of 49.

# Historian refights Bosworth Field

By Andrew Moncur

THE Battle of Bosworth, where Richard III lost his throne, will be royally celebrated next month, 500 years after the event — and in entirely the wrong place.

That is the conclusion of Dr Colin Richmond, senior lecturer in history at Keele University, whose research suggests that Bosworth field is not where Leicestershire County Council, the Ordnance Survey and this year's 200,000-odd visitors believe it to be.

"You don't re-live a battle-field every day of your life," he said yesterday. "I guess there will be a kerfuffle."

Dr Richmond's contentions

findings are to be published in *History Today* magazine, on the eve of the August 22 quincentenary of Henry Tudor's victory, which is being celebrated on the official Bosworth battlefield site at Ambion Hill, south of Market Bosworth, with a 10-day festival and a re-enactment of the battle.

Leicestershire has spent £150,000 enlarging its battlefield visitor centre and improving its facilities, toilet block, 44 miles of footpaths, five car parks and six picnic areas. All in the wrong place, says Dr Richmond.

He believes that the parishioners at St James' Church, Daddington, are nearer the mark — about a mile further south. They will

be celebrating a requiem mass on August 23 for the dead of the battle, who, they firmly believe, are buried there.

The Rev. Antony Bardsley, vicar of Stoke Golding with Daddington, said there would have been no earthly reason for carrying the dead there unless the battle had taken place nearby.

There is also a local tradition that sightseers watched the battle from the tower of St Margaret's Church, Stoke Golding, which is out of sight of the accepted Bosworth field.

Crown Hill, where Richard III's grave is reputed to have landed in a thorn bush,

is in Stoke Golding, he pointed out.

Dr Richmond bases much of his argument on the record in 1511 to license Daddington churchwardens to raise funds for a chapel "standing upon a parallel of the ground where Bosworth field otherwise called Daddington field was done."

He came across the "letter of confraternity" by chance while working on early printed sheets at the British Library. His case, he believes, is strengthened by a reference made by William Burton in a 1622 description of Leicestershire, placing the battlefield at Daddington, three miles south of Market Bosworth.

His suspicions are also aroused by the absence of authentic battle relics discovered at Ambion Hill.

Leicestershire remains quickly convinced that its own site is correct based on the researches of a Leicester University historian whose findings — drawn from the often contradictory evidence about the battle — have stood up to previous questioning.

Mr Tom Whitford, the county council's senior land agent, alerted to Dr Richmond's version, said: "It is raising a few eyebrows and a few questions." But he continues to favour the evidence of Henry's royal proclamation, which identified the spot where Richard died.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Testing of wines extended

THE Ministry of Agriculture has begun testing wines from Germany, Yugoslavia, Hungary, and Bulgaria to ensure that the problem of contaminated wine from Austria is not more widespread, writes *Alleen Balantyne*.

So far 16 bottles of contaminated Austrian wine have been found among 80 samples taken in Britain. Only one had been sold — in South Yorkshire.

A ministry spokesman said the checks on countries bordering Austria were because the wine was all from the same region, and blending was common practice.

The demand for West German wines has dropped in the United States and Japan as a result of the scandal. Mr Georg Gallus, of the West German agriculture ministry said yesterday. Officials said that some bottles of West German wine had been found to contain the toxic chemical compound, diethylene glycol.

A spokesman for Sainsbury's which stocks an Oppenheimer Krutenbrunner, said that the company's Austrian wines had been tested and cleared. It had also cleared its Austrian wines but has removed them from sale because of the ministry's advice.

The other chairmen, announced by Mr Baker are: Greater Manchester, Mr J. P. B. Haddfield, former chairman and managing director of the Bass North-west; Marseilles, Mr L. P. Pocock, former deputy group controller of the Royal Insurance Group; Tyne and Wear, Mr A. S. Robertson, former chief executive of the Northumbrian Water Authority; and West Yorkshire, Mr D. Skillicorn, corporate director for public affairs of the GKN group; and West Yorkshire, Mr T. McDonald, a senior partner in the chartered accountants, Armitage and Norton.

### Man on triple murder charge

PETER McMURRAY, aged 43, of Hamilton, near Glasgow, was remanded in custody at Hamilton sheriff court yesterday, charged with three counts of murder and one of car theft.

McMurray is accused of shooting William McIntosh, aged 56, William Burns, 30, and Alex Sexton, 42, at Bothwellbank sewage works in Boswell, Levenshire.

### Miners' arson plot sentences cut

FIVE Kent miners, each jailed for three years for conspiracy to commit arson at an Essex haulage business during the pit strike, had their sentences cut to two years by the Appeal Court in London yesterday.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, said James Waddell, aged 29; Gary Newell, 28; Emlyn Davies, 34; Mark Best, 27; and Brian Day, 28, acted out of a misguided sense of principle.

### Arrowsmith gets gaol term 12

PAT Arrowsmith, the peace campaigner, began his 12th gaol sentence yesterday when Highgate magistrates sentenced her to 14 days imprisonment after she refused to pay a £71 fine, costs and compensation for criminal damage to fencing at Alconbury US air force base.

Miss Arrowsmith, aged 55, of Hornsey, north London, said she had paid the same amount into the Live Aid appeal.

### Factory link in Legion outbreak

FACTORY equipment and air conditioning at Haine Industrial Estate, Rugeley, has been sterilised after five cases of Legionaire's disease from the area, health officials said yesterday.

In what had been called an "isolated case," a man died of the disease earlier this month.

### Man accused of attack on girls

NORFOLK police yesterday charged a man with two offences of attempted murder, one of rape and one of attempted rape after a stabbing attack on two girls.

The man will appear at Thetford magistrates' court on Monday. The girls, aged 16 and 17, are seriously ill in hospital in Bury St Edmunds.

### George Rawson

MR GEORGE RAWSON, Deputy Northern Circulation Manager of the Guardian, retired this week, after serving 37 years with the paper, the last 17 of which were spent in the Manchester Circulation Department.

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POLISHED PERFORMANCE: Flanked by horses Heidi, left, and Dallah, Blues and Royals' trumpeter Hugh Billington shines up his helmet for tonight's final display at the Royal Tournament in London. Picture by Martin Argles

## Cattle drug hunt moves north

By Andrew Veltch

The hunt for the black-market traders in drugs used to fatten farm animals moved north to Shropshire yesterday.

Food and drug inspectors and police have seized large quantities of illicit antibiotics and other drugs in raids on farms and feed merchants in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

Mr Alan Davidson, deputy head of the law department at the Pharmaceutical Society, which is leading the investigation, said last night: "Our inspectors have been in Shropshire today. The ring may spread from Shropshire south."

"A number of people have been reported and I will be surprised if they are not prosecuted."

The prime targets are sex hormones called stilbenes, banned because of cancer risks and their effects on young girls but still used secretly to fatten calves.

Baby girls in Italy developed breasts after eating real baby food contaminated by stilbenes, and four-year-old girls in Puerto Rico have become sexually mature after eating contaminated chickens.

The Ministry of Agriculture's food surveillance committee reported last year that their use was declining, and a spokesman said yesterday: "The number of cases in which stilbenes are detected is low. People are realising we are clamping down."

It was unclear last night which hormones had been found. Some can still be used in the UK to replace those lost when bullocks are castrated, but only under the supervision of a vet because of the health risks to consumers if they are passed on in large quantities. The EEC is trying to ban them.

Antibiotics such as penicillin meant for treating humans are also used illegally to fatten cows and pigs.

Professor Alan Linton, of Bristol University, warned yesterday that they encouraged the growth of drug-resistant strains of salmonella. Cases of salmonella poisoning are rising — 17,000 in 1984 — along with the increased use of antibiotics in animals, he says.

## Government proposes laws to curb local abuses of power

By John Carvel, Political Correspondent

A legally enforceable code of practice to prevent the abuse of local authorities being manipulated by political factions is proposed by the Government in evidence to the Widdicombe inquiry into local authority ethics, published yesterday. It was prepared by the Department of the Environment, Scottish Office, and Welsh Office, and lists alleged abuses by councils' majority groups.

They include: ● The delegation of politically controversial business to one-party sub-committees. ● The amendment or misuse of standing orders to limit the ability of minority groups and individual councillors to participate in debates. ● The orchestrated disruption

of council meetings. ● Attempts to intimidate and threaten councillors. ● The exclusion of controversial items from committee reports.

"In some cases allegations of political malfeasance may find their source in nothing more than administrative failings," says the departments' evidence. "Nevertheless, it is clear that political groups on a limited number of councils have in recent years exploited the flexibility of procedure . . . to strengthen their own control and to emasculate the committee system, particularly in sensitive areas covering industrial relations, personnel, direct labour organisation, political campaigning and internal audit matters."

The departments also criticise councillors who ignore the political conditions in return for permitting the use of public

facilities or council funds. Examples include a requirement that actors and musicians do not perform in South Africa, the withdrawal of business from firms transporting police and mine workers during the NUM strike, and the exclusion from approved lists of contractors of firms involved in the deployment of Cruise and Trident missiles.

The Widdicombe committee is expected to deliver a preliminary report on local authorities' "propaganda" activities over the next fortnight. It is understood that there has been a dispute between the committee chairman, Mr David Widdicombe, and some other members about whether the committee should support proposed legislation against the use of ratepayers' money for campaigns like that of the GLC against its abolition.

## Jenkin to release more housing land

By John Ardill, Environment Correspondent

The Environment Secretary is to make available more housing land in north-east Hampshire, Avon, and Buckinghamshire. Although the changes are fairly small they were welcomed by builders as a sign that the Government is beginning to respond to market demand.

The announcement by Mr Patrick Jenkin's department also includes comments on green belt policies which make it clear that the Government is not wanting green belts extended over potential housing land.

They follow the publication on Thursday of a study by the consultants Coopers and Lybrand commissioned by his department, which recommends ways of making planning more responsive to housing demand. It says that structure plan should be more flexible in adapting to demand.

Mr Jenkin's notice of proposed modifications to the north-east Hampshire structure plan takes no view on the issue which dominated the public hearing of the review two years ago — the proposal by Consortium Developments to build a mini new town at Hook.

The consortium has dropped the plan a forerunner to its

proposals for a new town in the green belt at Tillingham Hall, in Essex, but the notice does propose 5,900 new houses in the Hook district, which includes Hook.

Overall, Mr Jenkin proposes 20,000 new houses in the area compared with the 18,100 proposed by the county council. The Home Builders' Federation, while welcoming the increase, said it did not match the current rate of building. A further review will start soon, bringing a new battle in an area where the council wants to restrict development and the builders want to expand.

Strong local protests are expected at the minister's decision that the Avon plan should include 51,500 new houses by 1991 compared with the county's proposal for 48,500. Conservatives believe there is too much development in the area. Although Mr Jenkin has modified his previous proposal, he says, the increase in the number of houses, the federation welcomed the detailed changes as a response to the market.

Mr Jenkin has cut the provision at two sites, Patchwood Common and Locking Castle, and given extra provision to other areas.

Mr Jenkin will not increase Buckinghamshire's housing allocation but has rejected a recommendation by the public hearing panel that it should be cut by 700.

## 2 English fans are cleared

From Derek Brown in Brussels

TWO English football fans were on their way home last night after eight weeks in a Belgian gaol.

George Davies, aged 34, and John Awork, 30, were cleared by a Brussels court of robbery with violence. They were arrested on May 29 at the Eysel Stadium, where they had come to support Liverpool in the European Cup final against Juventus.

Thirty-eight spectators were killed in rioting at the ground, but Davies and Awork were already being held in custody outside after a minor incident.

The prosecution claimed that the men had robbed Marc Charles, a ticket tout, of 10,800 Belgian francs — about £105 — and defence witnesses from England told the court yesterday that neither man had played any part in the theft.

Mr Anthony Manfredi, a Liverpool supporter who, like Awork, lives in London, said he was with the two accused in a group of supporters making their way to the ground. They saw a man arguing with a ticket tout and another man grabbing his tickets.

The incident was over in seconds but about a minute later, as he and his friends moved on, a man shouted "It was them, they were there," pointing at Davies and Awork. They were arrested and charged.

In a previous hearing the prosecution was unable to produce or identify the arresting policeman. Mr Charles testified that the two were present during the incident. But he could not say whether they had taken his money.

Mr Manfredi's evidence was supported yesterday by Mr Paul Johnston from Watford, who lives in Liverpool. The court took less than five minutes to consider the verdict.

Lawyers said later that there was little chance of the two men being compensated for their two months in custody.

# Labour leader to wind up his own council

By John Carvel, Political Correspondent

Mr Roy Thwaites, Labour leader of South Yorkshire metropolitan county, is to chair the residuary body which will wind up the affairs of his own council.

Mr Thwaites, who chaired the Association of Metropolitan Authorities committee, which organised the fight against abolition of the metropolitan counties, will be the only Labour politician to accept a residuary body chairmanship.

His name did not appear on the list of the other residuary body chairmen published yesterday by the local government minister, Mr Kenneth Baker. It is understood that he still has to clear his new position with his local party.

The other chairmen, mostly retired businessmen, are to be paid annual salaries ranging from £18,000 to £17,600 for a two-year term. Mr Tag Taylor, chairman of the London residuary body, will get £50,000 for full-time work.

The residuary bodies will be formally established in August. Each will have between five and 10 members and will be responsible for disposing of property, organising compensation for staff made redundant, managing debt and winding down metropolitan county affairs after abolition at the end of March next year.

The Labour Party NEC this week lifted its boycott on participating in metropolitan county abolition. Its resolution stated: "The Labour Party should make every effort to ensure that the residuary bodies have a limited life span and that their efforts, responsibilities and functions are transferred as quickly as possible to direct democratic control. Any Labour participation in these bodies will have this as its sole objective."

The other chairmen, announced by Mr Baker are: Greater Manchester, Mr J. P. B. Haddfield, former chairman and managing director of the Bass North-west; Marseilles, Mr L. P. Pocock, former deputy group controller of the Royal Insurance Group; Tyne and Wear, Mr A. S. Robertson, former chief executive of the Northumbrian Water Authority; and West Yorkshire, Mr D. Skillicorn, corporate director for public affairs of the GKN group; and West Yorkshire, Mr T. McDonald, a senior partner in the chartered accountants, Armitage and Norton.

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# Social workers denounce councils

ABOUT 400 social workers in the London borough of Lambeth walked out yesterday in protest against the council proceeding with disciplinary action against an external independent inquiry into the case of Tyrone Henry.

The walk-out came as the British Association of Social Workers claimed that staff nationally were being prevented from doing their jobs by increasingly politicised local councils who refuse to accept professional judgments.

The tensions in Lambeth have come to a head over the case of Tyrone Henry, a 21-month-old girl whose father was sentenced to life imprisonment on Thursday.

Officials of the Lambeth social workers' union, Nalao, are holding urgent discussions with the council's leader, Mr Ted Knight, about the case.

The strike, expected to last until Monday night, followed a vote by council workers at a meeting on Thursday to support the union's call for a strike.

According to BASW and senior social services staff, the services of Lambeth are only the most acute example of something which is happening all over the country, particularly in authorities controlled by the Labour Party.

The Widdicombe inquiry into local government, set up by the Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin, is looking at this increasing politicisation as one of its terms of reference and is particularly interested in the appointment of chief officers for political reasons.

The fears of social services staff have already been expressed in the inquiry in evidence from the Association of Directors of Social Services. BASW has now decided to publish a statement stressing its members are under Mr John Wheeler, until recently BASW's chairman in Southwark, Lambeth

Sarah Boseley reports on the rift between social workers and local authorities as Mr Ted Knight (right), leader of Lambeth council, tries to resolve a strike by staff protesting over disciplinary action after the Tyrone Henry case



and Wandsworth, said: "Our members and the majority of social workers in Lambeth cannot go on any longer."

He and others in Lambeth had left and more were planning to, because they could no longer work against the opposition of councillors, he said.

Relations have deteriorated, he believes, over the past three years until they are now at a point of "poisonous" sub-committee meetings to discuss the need to be taken in particular cases have become platforms for abusing social workers and some councillors have

Some of the polarisations, social services staff say, has developed over racial questions. Black councillors feel that they are far more in touch with the black community. They distrust social workers who make decisions according to guidelines and theories.

The chairman of Lambeth social services, Mrs Janet Doughty, has been quoted as saying: "A lot of us are more in touch with communities than the social worker. We know what the problems are."

When Tyrone died last September, his mother had sought the terms of Lambeth council's care order and taken the child to live with her father, councillors reacted immediately. An inquiry by a panel of four staff, to be set up and reported within two weeks. Social workers felt that it was less than compassionate towards them.

Mr Wheeler said: "It was akin to a show trial in Eastern Europe. People were dragged forward and heeded and shouted at."

The social services director, then held a longer and fuller inquiry, said to be full of theory and hindsight, which pleased nobody — least of all the councillors.

On the basis of the second inquiry, however, Councillor Stephen Bubb, vice-chairman of the social services committee when Tyrone died, said on Thursday that disciplinary action would be taken against three social workers.

In April the had feeling among the staff was vented in a meeting of over half the 1,400-strong department, attended by the social workers and other staff, at which a vote of no confidence was passed in Mrs Bunting and Mr Bubb.

Mr Wheeler sees the origins of conflict in a power struggle. He said: "One of the reasons is that councillors tend to see social workers as the most starchy, uncontrollable members of their workforce. I've heard it said that 'the council's social workers is that they're some kind of professional freemasons'."

thing which we should be wholly negative about. I was always a bit suspicious of the political consensus and I think professionals do need to be challenged on what are appropriate values."

Mr Peter Riches, national chairman of BASW, said: "There's been growing concern for years or so in a sense it's a fairly natural phenomenon with the increase in politicisation of local government. Factions are now far more prominent."

Ten to 15 years ago, welfare work had a fairly low profile but now it is far more important politically. The chair of social services is now being fought over."

A significant number of the younger, well-educated and ambitious breed of Labour councillors have some knowledge of social work. Mr Patrick Kodikara, until recently chairman of Hackney social services committee, is director of Camden social services.

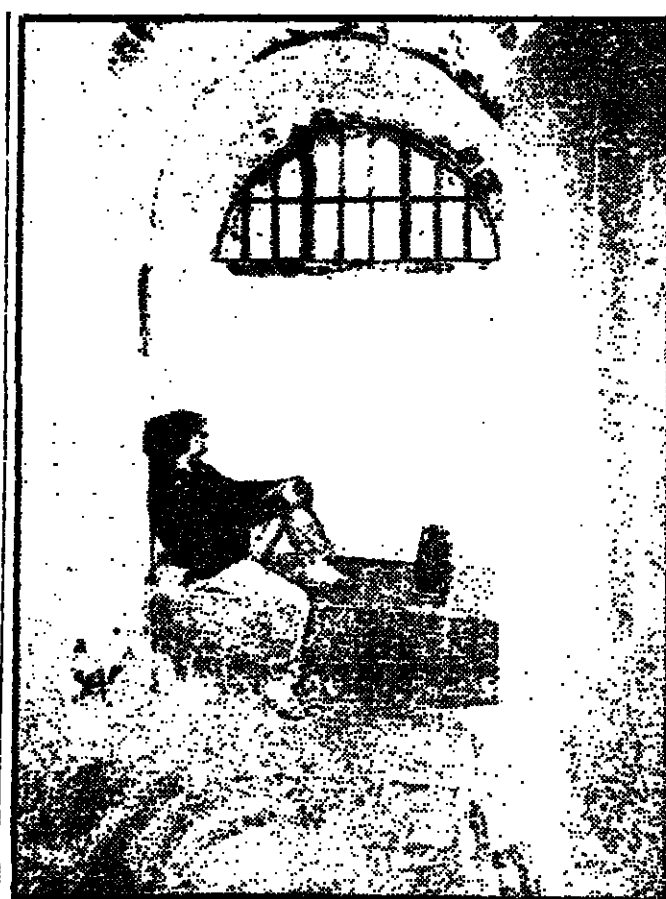
Mr Wheeler, who has been deeply involved in Lambeth's troubles, feels that drastic measures are called for. He said: "I think there would be a case for the social services inspectorate to come in."

He admits that this would be a desperation measure.

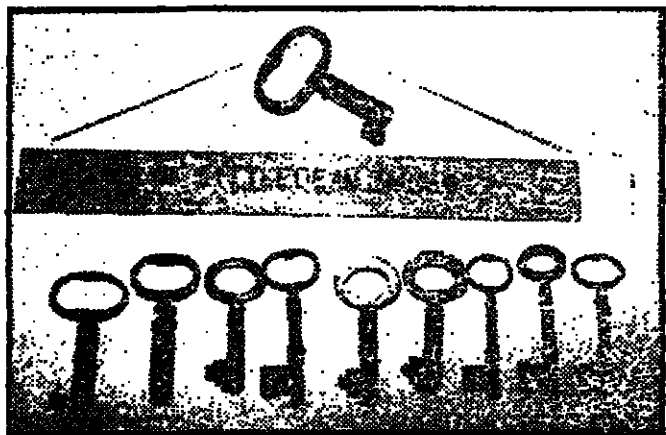
In the long term, he says, he would like to see professional training for councillors, as there is for juvenile court magistrates. "They will consider that to be terribly arrogant, but some awareness of your own motivation is important."

Mr Riches said: "My feeling is that they should be talking to the staff much more and trying to understand each other's perspective. It is crucial to do that rather than destroy staff morale by making public statements."

Maybe this is already beginning to be appreciated in Lambeth. At the council's press conference after the Tyrone Henry trial, Councillor Stephen Bubb did his utmost to play down the tensions.



GAOL SALE: A cell at Littledean Gaol in the Forest of Dean (above), which Gloucestershire County Council is selling. The grade II listed building set in 1.75 acres was built in 1781 as a house of correction. It includes 10 cells, a central block, court room and gatehouse. (Below) some of its keys.



## CND to challenge telephone tapping

By Paul Brown

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was yesterday given permission by a High Court judge to challenge telephone tapping of its leadership.

CND is seeking orders preventing the Home Secretary giving permission to tap CND telephone calls and from renewing any permission already given.

It is also seeking an order to allow the telephone tapping of its vice-president, Mr John Cox, was unlawful.

Mr Justice Forbes said yesterday that there was an arguable point of law, adding that this was not a comment on the case's merits.

The tapping of Mr Cox's telephone, came to light when an ex MI6 officer, Cathy Massiter, referred to it on a Channel 4 television programme.

At the full hearing CND will contend that the tapping had been done for purely political reasons, not on the grounds of national security.

Mr Stephen Groz, solicitor for CND, said the Treasury solicitor would have to explain why Mr Cox's phone was tapped, either by claiming that it came within Government guidelines because CND was subversive or to admit that the rules did not mean there was any responsible expectation they would be obeyed.

CND is also appealing to the European Court of Human Rights on other alleged Government infringements of its members' civil liberties.

The Home Secretary was not represented yesterday, and no date was set for the full hearing.

## NHS is blamed for late abortions

By Andrew Veltch, Medical Correspondent

Reducing the time limit for abortions from 28 to 24 weeks without improving health services would be disastrous for the few women affected, family planning organisations and women's health groups warned yesterday.

In a letter to the Health Minister, Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Co-ordinating Committee in Defence of the Abortion Act, said more than half the number of late abortions were due to hospital delays. The remedy to this was improved access to early, safe treatment and better education about birth control.

The committee includes the Family Planning Association, abortion charities, doctors and religious and political groups. They are organising a demonstration from five leading medical organisations, including the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), that the upper limit for terminations be reduced from 28 to 24 weeks. Mr Clarke is giving the recommendation urgent consideration and is known personally to favour the lower limit.

The most likely step would be to change the 1929 Infant Life Preservation Act which forbids the destruction of the life of a child capable of being born alive, which is after 28 weeks.

The latest full-year figures show that 238 of the 127,375 abortions in England and Wales in 1983 were performed at 24 weeks or later. They included 19 girls under 16, and 83 aged 16-19. The RCOG found in a report last year that many of them did not realise that they were pregnant, or were terrified of telling their parents.

Malformed babies accounted for another 54 of the very late abortions. Although new screening techniques mean that many abnormalities, with the exception of spina bifida, can be diagnosed in the first three months, the need for confirmation tests means that some cannot be diagnosed until 24 weeks or later.

Professor Eva Albermar of The London Hospital has shown that a 24-week limit would have meant that 26 abortions on babies suffering severe handicaps could not have been carried out. Another 12 abortions were performed to save the mother's life.

Just over 1,500 abortions were performed between 20 and 24 weeks in 1983—more than 600 mothers were teenagers and in 281 cases the babies were seriously malformed. The vast majority—1,143—were performed for physical or mental handicaps. In 10 cases, the mother's life was threatened. Yet nearly half the premature babies born at 24-27 weeks do survive for at least a month if they are in well-equipped intensive care units. But these units are overloaded.

## MPs want secretarial allowances doubled

By Colin Brown, Political Reporter

A group of Labour and Tory MPs has asked for increases of nearly 100 per cent in secretarial allowances in an informal approach to the Leader of the Commons, Mr John Biffen.

The Tories included Mr Michael Brown, MP for Brigg and Cleethorpes, who was among the 48 Tory rebels who voted against the Government last year on the pay rises for judges, generals, and top civil servants.

He was accompanied by three Labour MPs, including Mr Jack Drommond, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, who that night was also trying to damp down a Labour backbench row over the failure of 17 MPs to vote against the Government.

The group who saw Mr Biffen told him about the plight of MPs who were having to pay out of their own pockets for research assistants and computers which are now part of the trappings of everyday life for modern MPs.

They wanted another Plowden report on secretarial allowances, due for review next year. The review should be brought forward they say. The allowances should be raised from the present £13,200 to about £25,000—about £5,000 for the cost of new technological aids such as computers, and the rest for the employment of a full-time secretary and a research assistant for each MP.

Mr Clive Soley, the Labour MP for Hammersmith, who was on the delegation, said yesterday: "I think there is an awareness that we weren't asking for this. We were talking about research and secretarial facilities, and that does make a difference. Obviously, what happened the other night is very much in the air, but it did not affect the discussion at all."

The MPs, with the support of the SDP-Liberal Alliance parties and 200 members who signed a Commons motion, urged Mr Biffen to bring forward the report on secretarial allowances.

Mr Biffen told the backbenchers that the last Top Salaries Review Board report on the allowances, though started in 1982, was agreed by the House only 12 months ago and it was too soon to go through the process again. The MPs intend to continue pressing for action after the summer recess. The House rose yesterday and will return on October 21.

The Government is facing a revolt in the Lords over the decision to push ahead with big pay rises for senior civil servants, armed forces officers, and judges, but ministers do not expect such a big revolt as that in the Commons.

The Lords will rise for the summer holidays on Wednesday and return on October 14.

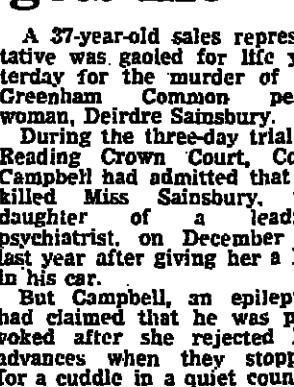
## School trip rules 'must be tighter'



TIGHTER supervision of school outings, with a teacher acting as advance guard in danger areas, has been urged by the coroner who conducted the inquest on four boys drowned at Land's End, writes Andrew Moncur.

Mr Derrick Pepperell (above) the West Cornwall coroner, has recommended that adult helpers who are not teachers should be fully briefed about the scope of their responsibilities. His recommendations have been made to Buckinghamshire education committee, which is to start its own inquiry—published in early September—into the Land's End tragedy. The boys who died were members of a party from Stoke Poges middle school, Buckinghamshire. A verdict of death by misadventure was returned last week on the boys, aged from 10 to 12.

## Greenham murderer gets life



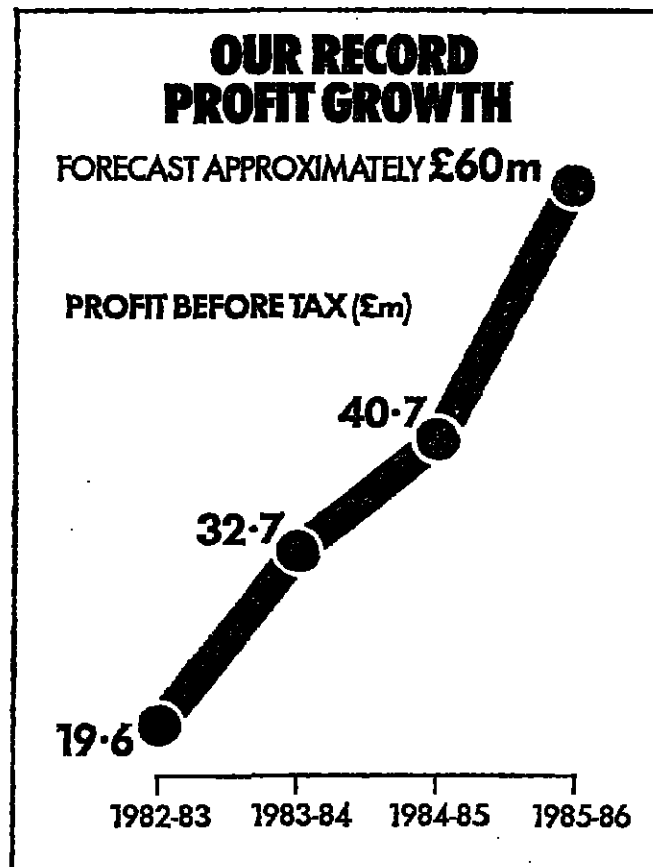
A 37-year-old sales representative was jailed for life yesterday for the murder of the Greenham Common peace woman, Deirdre Sainsbury. During the three-day trial at Reading Crown Court, Colin Campbell had admitted that he killed Miss Sainsbury, the daughter of a leading psychiatrist, on December 22 last year after giving her a lift in his car.

But Campbell, an epileptic, had claimed that he was provoked after she rejected his advances when they stopped for a cuddle in a quiet country lane.

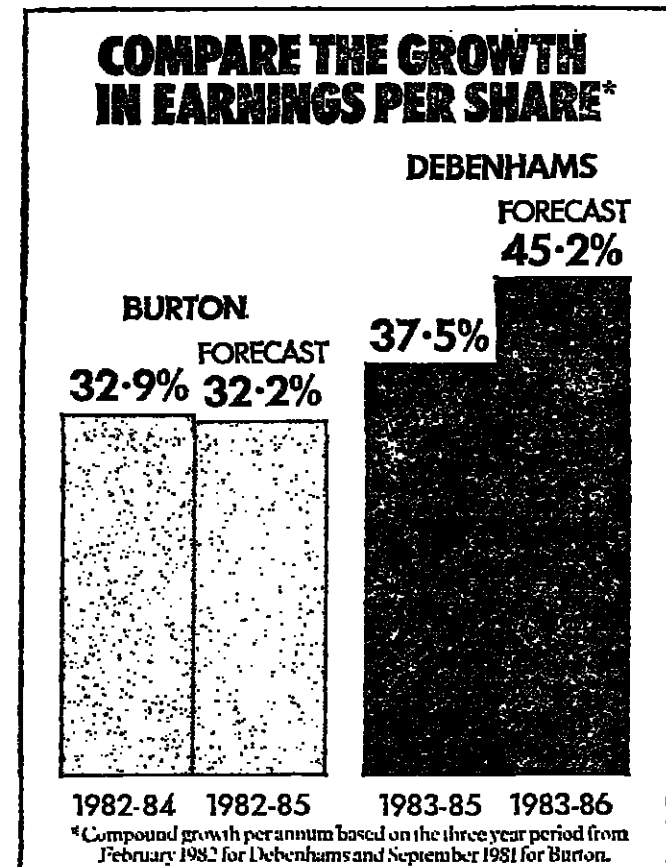
The jury took just over two hours to find him guilty of murder. As the verdict was announced the unanimous verdict Campbell appeared unsteady on his feet and had to be assisted to his seat in the dock. Mr Justice Jones told Campbell: "I have no doubt it is a verdict which has not taken you by surprise in any way at all." The murder was unprovoked, said the judge. It was a brutal, pointless murder," he told Campbell, of Beresford Avenue, Hanwell, west London. As Mr Justice Jones pronounced a life sentence Campbell faintly and was taken unconscious to the police cells.

# DEBENHAMS SHAREHOLDERS

Mr. Halpern and Sir Terence Conran, the two self-styled stars in the High Street, like to speak for themselves. The facts speak for the team at Debenhams.



Debenhams' profit before tax has doubled since 1982-3 and will have trebled by 1986 on the basis of the forecast of approximately £60m. for the current year. Trading is continuing well with profits for the year to date substantially ahead of the results for the same period last year.



Debenhams' growth in earnings per share has beaten Burton's hands down over the past 3 years. On the basis of Burton's own profit forecast, Debenhams looks even better. In fact, some 40% better over the 4 year period.

Mr. Halpern and Sir Terence speak for themselves.

The facts speak for...

The New **DEBENHAMS** Specialists—above all

IGNORE THE BURTON BID

KEEP YOUR DEBENHAMS SHARES



Three-cent fall in 20 minutes  
follows call for sanctions

## Rand dives as detentions in S. Africa approach 900

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

The value of the rand fell sharply against the dollar yesterday as the state of emergency entered its sixth day and the number of detentions under emergency regulations approached 900.

The decline in the dollar value of the rand, caused primarily by the sale of gold shares by foreign investors, coincided with the resumption of the debate in the United Nations Security Council on a French resolution calling for voluntary sanctions against South Africa.

The rand plunged three US cents in 20 minutes yesterday. But it recovered after the Reserve Bank bought rand and sold dollars to steady the currency.

Gold shares quoted on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, which slumped on Thursday

**SCANDINAVIAN Airlines** System, the joint venture carrier of Sweden, Denmark, and Norway, will terminate its flights on South Africa on September 1 to show their opposition to apartheid. The weekly roundtrip on the Copenhagen-Nairobi-Johannesburg route was also described as marginal and negligible for the airline's economy—AP.

when foreign investors sold out because of nervousness about the country's stability, recovered yesterday.

Brokers said gold mines had become attractive at the depressed prices, particularly for foreign investors who were able to buy more rand with their dollars. The rand dropped at one stage to 47 US cents from 50 on Thursday but firmed later to about 49 cents.

In the black homeland of Transkei, declared independent by South Africa but not recognised elsewhere, police detained 447 people on Thursday for failing to produce identity documents during a raid during curfew hours. Transkei imposed a curfew this month after bombings in the capital, Umtata.

With South African prisons overcrowded by 36 per cent, according to official figures, it is unclear where the detainees are being held and what effect their arrival has had on the already strained prison services, particularly as detainees are kept separate from convicted prisoners.

When the question was put to Major A. van Vuuren, of the Department of Prisons, he merely referred to the definition of "prison" in the emergency regulations as a conven-

tional prison, a police cell, and "a lock-up place."

Methods of coping with an influx of prisoners into overcrowded prisons include the transfer of less crowded prisoners, and the use of "stacked beds," or bunks, he said. Whatever adjustments are made, "a high standard of health and hygiene are maintained," he added.

Major Van Vuuren said: "The total prison population on June 30, 1985 was 109,704 and approved accommodation for 80,290, which means we are 36 per cent overcrowded."

The commissioner of police, General Johan Coetzee, yesterday issued a statement to clarify confusion about the number of detentions since the emergency came into force.

Police were not only patrolling the troubled areas in search of the "main trouble-makers," but were also tracking down those responsible for "serious crimes" during the unrest.

Although police reported several violent incidents on Thursday night, their latest report said of the troubled East Rand: "No unrest has been reported for the last 24 hours." It added: "The law-abiding citizens in the emergency areas are cooperating very well with the police."

The divisional commissioner of police in Soweto, Brigadier Jan Coetzee, has banned planned meetings at the weekend to celebrate the birthday of the imprisoned African National Congress leader, Mr Nelson Mandela.

A "moderate" Soweto businessman, Mr Richard Mponya, had been offered R5,000 to the celebrations.

Anna Tomforde adds from Bon: The Government, barely concealing its disappointment at France's unilateral decision to impose sanctions against South Africa, made clear yesterday that it would not take any drastic measures which would harm the South African and German economies.

"The Government does not believe in sanctions or boycotts, and sees no reason to preempt talks in Helsinki next week to discuss the European Community's foreign ministers' at the chief government spokesman said.

The foreign ministry stressed that the South African ambassador, Mr Willem Rietjens, had been told of West Germany's "grave concerns" at the situation in South Africa. Officials said privately that Bon was annoyed at France's unilateral move, which they saw as being due to pressure from the French Communist Party.

## Nyerere in crisis talks on Uganda

From Martin Kettle

Ugandan government reports that Nyerere is in crisis talks on the deteriorating situation in Uganda.

The talks took place as heavy fighting was reported between rival soldiers in the Karamoja area and around the eastern town of Soroti. Travellers reaching Nairobi said that rebel forces had cut off the country's north, overrunning an artillery battalion in the town of Alot, and confirmed reports that President Milton Obote may no longer be in Kampala.

The Ugandan ministers, who are believed to have included the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, and the Deputy Foreign Minister, flew unexpectedly to the Tanzanian capital on Thursday after successes by rebel forces this week in north and west Uganda, including the capture of the key town of Fort Portal.

The Tanzanian Foreign Minister, Mr Benjamin Mkapa, confirmed yesterday that the Ugandans would meet President Julius Nyerere and his ministers for talks which might include possible Tanzanian military support for President Obote.

The Ugandan leaders stayed under armed guard in a Dar-es-Salaam hotel. Tanzanian security forces stepped up their presence at the city's airport.

with several lorries of armed poachers in view.

Tanzanian ministers reportedly made clear their reluctance to get involved in a renewed military intervention in Uganda.

In Nairobi yesterday, the Kenyan Foreign Minister, Mr Eliud Ngunjiri, described the growing conflict in Uganda as a "cancer" which threatens to reduce the country to a warring state of tribal groups.

The only leader who can unite Uganda is Milton Obote, he said.

The Ugandan crisis was discussed during talks in Nairobi between Mr Ngunjiri and Labour Party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, who arrived there yesterday at the start of a four-day visit.

The Kenyan daily Nation newspaper reported that government troops have fled or surrendered to the rebel national Resistance Army in the Kabale/Kasese area, formerly the Kingdom of Toro. Parts of the northern Uganda are also said to be under the control of rebel factions within the Ugandan army itself.

Patrick Keatley adds: British Travellers intending to visit Uganda were warned by the Foreign Office last night to reconsider reports from the British high Commission in Kampala indicated that the present situation may well deteriorate although the main international airport at Entebbe remains open.

## SLA men defect to Muslim militia

TEL AVIV: Nine militiamen from the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army have defected to the Shiite Muslim Amal militia, Israeli military sources said yesterday.

The militiamen, all Shiites, abandoned their position near the village of Taibe at the northern edge of the Israeli-designated buffer zone in south Lebanon.

The predominantly Christian militia has had trouble keeping Shiites, who form the largest sect in south Lebanon.

A UN spokesman said the militiamen arrived at a UNIFIL checkpoint on the Akiba bridge over the Litani River on Thursday evening.

On June 6, 11 Shiites members of the SLA left another militia post and turned up with Amal men in Tyre. That episode triggered a confrontation with UNIFIL when the Israeli-backed militia accused UNIFIL of disarming the 11 men and turning them over to Amal.

Four Palestinians were found shot in the head in a car abandoned near the Mieh Mieh Palestinian refugee camp in Sidon, Lebanon, yesterday.

Security sources identified one as a worker for the Red Crescent, the Islamic equivalent of the Red Cross, and two others as members of Yasser Arafat's Fatah commando group.

One of the six major Green Line crossings between mainly Muslim west and Christian east Beirut was reopened yesterday as part of efforts to restore normal traffic between the two sectors.

Reopening of the crossing came after overnight rocket-propelled grenade clashes on the Green Line died down by dawn.—Reuters/AP.

## Sikh pact eases way to peace

From Ajoy Bose in New Delhi

The militant Sikh party, Akali Dal, yesterday formally ratified the accord signed earlier this week in New Delhi by its leader, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, and the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, settling the Punjab problem.

The party also withdrew the four-year agitation for more political and religious autonomy for Sikhs in the north Indian state. The meeting was marked by sharp differences about the accord and some senior party leaders were outvoted by a show of hands.

Reporters were barred from the talks held in the top storey of a white-marbled Sikh shrine in the small Punjab town of Anandpur Sahib. Troops ringed the temple while party leaders were surrounded by bodyguards carrying sub-machine guns.

The party leaders, a former Punjab chief minister, Mr Parkash Singh Badal, and Mr Gurbachan Singh Tohra, chief of the Sikh temple authority, had earlier expressed their reservations about the agreement.

They told reporters yesterday that they "differed with almost every point of the accord" and he could not be a party to it. At one point, Mr Tohra walked out of the meeting and had to be called back by his colleagues.

Baba Jindar Singh, the 80-year-old leader of the extremist faction of the Akali Dal, who had earlier rejected the accord as a "sellout," has called a Sikh pantheist convention next month to discuss the situation arising from the agreement.

But an Akali Dal spokesman said there was no dissent. He told reporters that Sikh leaders had simply asked for "clarifications."

In New Delhi, the Election Commissioner, Mr R. K. Trivedi, said the agreement opened the way for elections in the state for the first time in five years.

The Punjab settlement has also run into opposition from sections of Hindu parties, including Gandhi's own Congress Party.

The Congress Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mr Hardev Joshi, announced in the State Assembly that his party could not accept the provision on the distribution of river waters flowing through Punjab, Rajasthan, and another state, Haryana.

Mr Joshi, who said that he had already sent an urgent message to Mr Gandhi, seeking clarification of the provision, said that the accord has violated previous agreements on the river waters and was against the interests of Rajasthan.

Opposition leaders in the Rajasthan assembly, which was adjourned on Thursday in uproar, were more forthright in their criticism and described the day the accord was signed as "the blackest day in the history of Rajasthan."

In Haryana, although the Congress Chief Minister has accepted the accord, opposition parties in the state are up in arms against territorial grants to Punjab under the accord, including Chandigarh, so far the twin capital of both the states.



A Jewish demonstrator is taken into Afula police station in Israel, after anti-Arab demonstrations

## Khmer Rouge's new, image cannot disguise old habits

Suspicious about contact with Westerners persist

From Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Khao Yai, Thailand-Kampuchean Border

AT FIRST glance, Khao Yai might be mistaken for a new model of Khmer Rouge society to match the liberalism newly espoused by its leaders in their attempts to shed their image as the butchers of Kampuchea.

The reception is of 35,000 Khmers who fled into Thailand, south of Aranyaprathet, after Vietnamese attacks on their border villages earlier this year. With a nonchalant wave of the hand, Kim Sem, contact man for Western relief officials and any other foreign visitors, will bid them walk and talk freely among the rows of palm trees and bamboo houses stretching towards the border a couple of miles beyond.

His easy manner, enhanced by reasonable English, makes a surprising alternative to the icy reticence more common among low-ranking Khmer Rouge officials.

Such treatment is not the only novelty. Contact between inhabitants and relief workers is unrestricted, if not unhampered.

Mr Sem is as non-committal about his precise status as he is evasive about the past, but he speaks vehemently about the present situation in Kampuchea.

"The Vietnamese always use the pretext the Khmer Rouge will come to power (to justify their occupation)," he said. "Now we make our position clear that we don't grasp power after the Vietnamese withdraw. We will let the Khmer people choose in free elections."

The principle of free elections after a Vietnamese withdrawal from Kampuchea is not new for the Khmer Rouge. But an announcement last week that they would accept election from government and support a liberal parliamentary regime was seen as a refinement of their position, intended to reassure the international community and carefully timed ahead of

the next UN General Assembly in September.

The policy line, according to Mr Sem, was decided at a meeting in the Cardamom mountains by, even more representatives from Khmer Rouge areas than the last gathering, convened to dissolve the Kampuchean Communist party. But scepticism about Khmer Rouge leaders' commitment to their avowed aims remains as strong now as it was after that announcement.

For all the talk of liberalism, letters smuggled out from Khmer Rouge areas and interviews with defectors by a Western expert paint a bleak picture of a rigidly authoritarian society whose leaders are driven by an almost pathological suspicion of any other group, including those also fighting the Vietnamese.

"We are political prisoners of the Khmer Rouge, accused of being spies or a threat to the revolution," one inhabitant of a Khmer Rouge area wrote, adding that 10 members of his group had been sentenced to death, but managed to escape during Vietnamese attacks.

In the sector under one Ny Korn, a divisional commander in charge of Khao Yai, one interviewee spoke of being sent to work in a rice field, but to move people away from the influence of Western relief agencies.

But even at Khao Yai, the freedoms are limited. "If you criticise too much, you get locked up," one inhabitant remarked. "People are frightened to criticise."

Given a choice, relief agency officials familiar with the camp believe that about one-third of Khao Yai's population would opt to move to areas outside Khmer Rouge control. Increasing numbers also appear to be applying to move to third countries.

The question of moving large numbers from Khmer Rouge to non-Communist Khmer control is a subject of acute sensitivity between the three resistance factions — and the Thai authorities are anxious to avoid any move that would rupture the tenuous cooperation between them. It remains to be seen if a choice is ever offered.

not Khmer Rouge authority, and exposed to an unprecedented level of contact with Westerners.

The last factor alone seems to be breeding a taste for more independence, which may be eroding the Khmer camp bosses' authority, regular visitors there believe. Discipline at other camps to which foreigners have only rare access is reportedly more strict.

Such conditions at Khao Yai have been viewed with suspicion by some Khmer Rouge military. Several shooting incidents erupted in the camp in May during attempts to move some of the population to other locations.

In the worst incident, one man was killed and six injured when, according to one inhabitant, armed men herded more than 1,000 people out onto the road beside Khao Yai, driving them in a northerly direction only to be turned round after several miles by Thai troops.

"Every night Khmer Rouge commanders take men, women, and children away from Khao Yai," one inhabitant had written in a letter shortly before these incidents, explaining that the aim was to move people away from the influence of Western relief agencies.

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## Penang to hang Australians

PENANG, Malaysia: Despite start notices at all entry points warning travellers that they will be executed if convicted of drug smuggling, many foreigners still risk their lives as couriers. Two Australians were sentenced to hang yesterday.

"It is a highly lucrative business. If you are short of desperate for cash, you could be easily encouraged to dabble in the business," said Penang's chief police officer, Datuk Henry Bruno Almeida.

The Australians were convicted by a court on the holiday island of Penang of heroin smuggling. A welder from Perth, Mr Kevin Barlow, aged 27, and Mr Brian Chambers, aged 23, a builder from Sydney, were the first Westerners to be

convicted under drug laws, tightened two years ago, which make the death sentence mandatory for possession of more than 0.53 ounces of heroin or morphine.

Although he delayed formal sentencing until Thursday, the judge, Mr Mahmud Daud bin Hal Abdullah told them: "There is no alternative but to impose the death sentence."

Police said that a total of 30 foreigners have been arrested in Penang for drug offences since 1983. As well as the Australians, eight foreigners from Britain, Malaysia, Canada, France, New Zealand, and Austria face death sentences if they are convicted.

Penang, a few days journey overland from the Golden Triangle drug-producing area where the borders of Thailand, Burma, and Laos meet, used to be a haven for heroin, cannabis, and opium smugglers.

Mr Almeida said that the severe new laws had brought a slight decline in drug offences. Even so, the temptation to make money is so great that many people are still willing to risk their lives to traffic drugs.

Professor Navaratnam, who heads the national drug research centre, said, "The drug problem in Malaysia is described as alarming, with nearly 100,000 addicts among the country's 15 million population."

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## Terror killings make use of Israeli death penalty likely

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

The likelihood of the use of the death penalty for terrorist crimes committed in Israel increased yesterday when searchers discovered the bodies of two Jewish teachers presumed kidnapped and murdered by Arabs in a remote area of the north of the country.

Police said that the corpses of Mr Yosef Elihu, aged 35, and Miss Leah Elmakani, aged 19, were found with their hands tied to each other, in a narrow cave on the rocky slopes of Mount Gilboa, overlooking the Jezreel valley.

The two disappeared on Sunday after leaving the school where they both taught in the town of Afula, and large-scale searches had been conducted ever since Mr Elihu's abandoned and bloodstained car was found on Monday in the nearby town of Tulkarm, just across the old "green line" in the occupied West Bank.

On the discovery of the bodies, a crowd gathered outside the Afula police station shouting "death to terrorists."

Angry Jews roamed the market looking for Arab workers and two were beaten up while waiting at a bus stop. Dozens of Jews were arrested for breaches of the peace.

The district police chief, Commander Shaul Levy, said there were gunshot wounds in the body of Mr Elihu, but no basis to rumours that the victims had been tortured or mutilated. They had been killed last Sunday.

One rightwing Likud MP, Mr Meir Cohen-Avidor, a fervent supporter of the death penalty for terrorists, arrived in town, but was asked to leave to avoid whipping up anti-Arab sentiment. The MP refused. Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the racist Kahane movement, also visited Afula this week.

The local council of the neighbouring village of Sakninia condemned the killings as "barbaric". There were similar denunciations by Arab and Jewish leftwing groups.

The murder—one of about a dozen similar attacks on Israeli soldiers and civilians in recent months—seems certain seriously to impair the already slim chances for Arab-Jewish coexistence in Israel itself and to heighten tension in the occupied territories.

It will also add weight to the growing campaign for the introduction of the death penalty, which already exists under Israeli law, but has never been used except in the case of the Nazi war criminal, Adolf Eichmann. The cabinet is to meet on Monday to discuss internal security and arrange tough new measures.

The Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, and other Labour leaders are intensely aware that the Likud and other rightwing groups are keen to make political capital out of so-called "laxity" in security.

Mrs Geula Cohen, an MP for the rightwing opposition Tehiya party, said in the Knesset yesterday that the Government was not without blame for the recent killings. She asserted that the Government had argued that it could prevent terrorism and it had taken several measures to do so, but it had failed to prevent the death penalty or deportations.

The Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, said that successful preventive measures in the West Bank were forcing Palestinian terrorists to carry out their attacks across the "green line" in Israel proper.

Mr Rabin said he preferred measures like deportation to the death penalty, but the foreign minister and Likud leader, Mr Shimon Peres, said that the death penalty should be considered.

MEASURES introduced by the Kremlin to combat the country's increasing alcoholism are working in at least one Soviet city. A daily newspaper said fewer drunks were to be seen on the streets of Kirov, 500 miles north east of Moscow, and local alcohol sales had fallen by 30 per cent.—Reuters.

WINE SCARE THE HEALTH and Welfare Ministry of Japan yesterday said that a West German wine containing a poisonous chemical had been found in Tokyo. An official said that the white wine, made in 1982, was found to contain small amounts of diethylene-glycol.—Reuters.

FAMILY DIES TEN people from the same family were killed instantly by lightning when they hit their home in Shagai in northern Pakistan, according to a report yesterday. A severe monsoon that hit the area caused flash floods which washed away three houses and a mosque.—AP.

BOMB DECISION FRANCE will continue its nuclear tests in the South Pacific indefinitely. Mr Jean-Michel Baylet the Secretary of State at the French foreign ministry, said in Suva yesterday. He said scientists had found no nuclear testing in Pacific posed no danger.—Reuters.

THEATRE CLOSED ISRAELI authorities closed a Palestinian theatre in east Jerusalem yesterday, saying it had rented its building to groups linked to the outlawed Democratic front for the liberation of Palestine. military sources said.—Reuters.

MORE RUSSIANS THE POPULATION of the Soviet Union passed 277 million on July 1, an increase of two million over last year, Tass said yesterday.

Using his loaf A MAN, using a pistol concealed in a baguette, which he carried under his arm, has robbed the Lyon branch of the Credit Agricole bank of 25,000 francs (£2,000). He was still free yesterday, police said.—AP.

Defence plan FRENCH defence chiefs are planning to construct a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and begin design studies for a new generation strategic nuclear submarine next year. It was announced in Paris yesterday.—Reuters.

Priest killed Hired gunman shot and killed Exuperie Ramon, an Italian priest, attempting to settle a land dispute in the eastern Amazon jungle, a church official said in Brazil yesterday.

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More police fly in to quell Guadeloupe violence

# French Socialists are accused of dumping territories

From Paul Webster in Paris

The Opposition yesterday accused the Government of encouraging the independence movement in the French West Indian island of Guadeloupe as a parliamentary debate took place against the background of a new night of violence. The Opposition sees the events in the island as part of a general dumping of French overseas territories by the Socialists.

Two hundred more gendarmes flew to the island yesterday to cope with threatened riots over the weekend as separatist movements campaign for the release of an independence leader, Mr. Georges Fréchet, whose second appeal against a three-year jail sentence will be heard on Monday.

Mr. Fréchet, who is on hunger strike in a prison near Paris, is accused of hitting a French schoolteacher. The Government is hoping for clemency by the appeal court in an attempt to control the violence that has swept the island since Wednesday.

As opposition leaders condemned the Government during a parliamentary debate for "abandoning" the territory, reports reached Paris of a

series of new troubles. Rioting that went on throughout Thursday included fights between police and demonstrators. As extra riot police were flown in from France to bring their strength to nearly 1,000, prisoners in the local jail tried a mass breakout. Police quelled the trouble by sending helicopters into the prison grounds but at least one prisoner escaped.

Rioters roamed the streets looting shops and breaking into two armories before setting up new barricades. A gendarme was shot and wounded and it was earlier reported that a police helicopter was forced to land after being hit by a bullet.

Police are also investigating the death of the wife of the gendarme chief who was found dead at the bottom of a cliff. A post mortem examination will decide whether bruises on her body were inflicted before her fall.

The Guadeloupe protest has developed into a debate on Socialist intentions for overseas territories in the Pacific and Caribbean as it is taking place during a parliamentary debate on the future of the Pacific territory, New Caledonia. The territory is being di-

vided into four regions to help the local population lessen the political grip of 50,000 whites who make up about half the population.

The opposition sees this as the first stage of a move towards independence and the start of what the pro-Giscardist movement described in parliament as "a general dumping of overseas territories."

The Gaullist former prime minister, Mr. Michel Debré, who represents the Indian Ocean island of La Réunion in parliament, said the Government was "turning a blind eye to foreign interference in French territories" which it was now ready to abandon.

In a joint party statement, the Gaullist said the government had let a handful of rioters paralyse Guadeloupe and were treating the leaders as "privileged negotiators."

Mr. Roger Chénouard, overseas territory spokesman for the rightwing Republican Party, said the Government was "the accomplice of a minority of independence supporters."

After New Caledonia, the Government is preparing another low blow, he said. The government has denied any support for independence for the island of 230,000 people.

## Russian named in military shake-up

Moscow: General Yuri Maksimov, aged 61, a former regional commander in Central Asia, has been named as deputy Soviet defence minister, and Western experts say that he may have assumed command of the Strategic Missile Forces.

General Maksimov's promotion has not been publicly announced but the official army newspaper, Red Star, described him yesterday as deputy defence minister in a report of a meeting before Navy Day.

Senior Western diplomats, who have been monitoring the reshuffle in the top echelons of the Soviet military during recent weeks said "it was almost certain that General Maksimov had taken over the prestigious missile command."

General Nikolai Chervov, the top Soviet military expert on disarmament, said on Thursday that the missile forces' commander for 13 years, General Vladimir Kolobov, had been replaced "by another talented and able military leader." Each of the 11 deputy defence ministers, who rank after three first deputies and the minister himself, is responsible for a branch of the services.

The Strategic Missile command, in charge of the country's long- and medium-range nuclear weapons, is considered to be the most important of the five main branches of the armed forces.

Also present at the meeting was General Alexei Lizichev, aged 57, who was recalled from East Germany earlier this month and named head of the powerful Armed Forces' Political Directorate.

General Lizichev's appointment, reported unofficially last week, was confirmed by General Chervov.

Western analysts are now awaiting the annual Navy Day celebrations for further indications of the extent of the shake-up within the Soviet high command.

To date there has been no news of the fate of General Mikhail Zaitsev, General Lizichev's former boss as head of the Soviet forces in East Germany, since the two were recalled together. — Renter.



Police check damaged vehicles in Lima after a car bomb exploded. The blast came 72 hours before Alan Garcia is due to be inaugurated as President of Peru

## Greece swears in new government

From George Coats in Athens

The new Government was sworn in yesterday to replace the temporary administration in power since the Socialists were re-elected last month.

The party ideologues are back in force, and the leading technocrat, Mr. Gerasimos Arsenis, has lost his Cabinet seat as minister in charge of economy and finance. He had recently indicated that a period of retrenchment was on the way, but that was not what the party hardliners wanted.

The former foreign minister, a long-time Papandreou loyalist, has finally been ousted out of the Foreign Ministry and made a deputy premier. Mr. Yiannis Charamanolis, who has long been rumoured to be

ready for a move is replaced by Mr. Kostas Papoulas, the party's foreign policy adviser.

Mr. Theodoros Panalios, who showed himself to be an able defender of Greece's interests in the EEC, has been promoted to alternate foreign minister, retaining his Community portfolio.

The reappointment of Mr. Yiannis Kapsis as deputy foreign minister suggests that Mr. Papandreou may be less determined to improve relations with the US than he has recently stated. Mr. Kapsis' abrasive style has angered Washington in the past, and his absence from the temporary government since June was read by American diplomats as a positive indication that Mr. Papandreou wanted to improve ties.

## Balts sail in protest

Stockholm: About 400 Baltic emigrants prepared to leave yesterday on a cruise skirting the coasts of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to protest against Soviet rule.

The Soviet press has described the cruise, due to reach Helsinki for a human rights demonstration tomorrow, as a provocation to disrupt celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the Helsinki accords.

The cruise organisers said that they had asked the Swedish navy to keep their ship under electronic surveillance to detect any attempt by the Soviet navy to interfere, but the Swedes refused.

Those on board were to include about 100 Americans of Baltic origin and 100 Swedes. — Renter.

## Hollywood gays rally to Hudson

From Christopher Reed in San Francisco

The news that the film actor, Rock Hudson, is ill with Aids and has also been a life-long homosexual has brought a wave of sympathy to Hollywood where no star has ever publicly come out of the closet.

The announcement in Paris that Mr. Hudson has had the disease for a year prompted several news reports of his homosexuality. The actor himself has never made any public acknowledgement.

A statement in Paris said yesterday that Mr. Hudson was being injected with a substance code-named HPA-23. The drug is believed to inhibit a virus identified as a potential cause of Aids.

Aids (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) attacks the body's resistance to infection. It has struck 12,000 people in America, killing about half. Nearly three-quarters of the victims have been male homosexuals, and the others mainly haemophiliacs or

intravenous drug users.

Friends of Mr. Hudson's in San Francisco, where he was a frequent visitor to its gay discos and clubs, say that the actor, aged 59, had considered publicly acknowledging his homosexuality, but finally declined. "He learned his lesson well in Hollywood and decided to stick by the rules," Armistead Maupin, gay writer and friend of Mr. Hudson's, said.

"These rules state that if you keep quiet, everyone will lie about it for you. All Hollywood will know, but never the public."

Hollywood's voluntary conspiracy of silence is now threatened by the ravages of Aids, with other famous entertainers expected to fall victim and the news leaking out. Some believe that it might be preferable for homosexual stars to break the long-standing code and let their sexual preferences become known in less distressing circumstances.

"It's a helluva way to come

out, lying in a hospital bed knowing everyone is talking about you," Vito Russo, author of the book, *The Celluloid Closet*, said. "But part of me is gratified to know that at least one well-known star's gayness is public knowledge."

Unfortunately, Hollywood is a freelance community and people are always seeking work, and 20 per cent bigots means the chance of a 20 per cent job loss. Yet the talented need never be hurt by declaring themselves gay.

"It is very possible, therefore, that people would come out and rally round Rock Hudson as a gesture of support. It would be Hollywood's finest hour."

Militant gay leaders believe that the news of Mr. Hudson's illness will help to focus public sympathy on the disease. Brian Cole Porter, Robert Taylor, Montgomery Clift, Charles Laughton, Tyrone Power, Janet Gaynor, George Cukor (director of *My Fair Lady*), and Noel Coward if it had been disclosed that they were gay.

This could represent a tremendous shift in public perception: that nice people get Aids.

At a public appearance last week in California with Doris Day, his co-star in several films, Mr. Hudson explained his gaunt and tired appearance as a virus "picked up in Israel."

Hollywood movie watchers have always maintained that any link with homosexuality is career and box-office death. Yet as Mr. Russo points out, this is not always so. The British actor, Dirk Bogarde, gained international acclaim with stronger roles after appearing in *Victim*, the sympathetic film in 1961 about the blackmailing of homosexuals.

It is impossible to know what might have happened to the careers of James Dean, Cole Porter, Robert Taylor, Montgomery Clift, Charles Laughton, Tyrone Power, Janet Gaynor, George Cukor (director of *My Fair Lady*), and Noel Coward if it had been disclosed that they were gay.

Application has been made to the Court of the Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of Tiphook plc, issued and to be issued under the Offer for Sale, to be admitted to the Official List.

## Tiphook plc

(Registered in England and Wales under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1980 No. 1580263)

### Offer for Sale

by

### Barclays Merchant Bank Limited

of 5,454,545 Ordinary Shares of 10p each at 110p per share payable in full on application.

#### Share Capital

Authorised		Issued and to be issued fully paid
£		£
1,725,000	Ordinary Shares of 10p each	1,395,711
3,500,000	8 per cent. Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of £1 each	3,500,000

The Tiphook Group is engaged in the businesses of renting containers and road trailers to the shipping, distribution and transportation industries and manufacturing containers. The Group operates as three independent divisions under the overall management and control of the head office at Bromley, Kent—

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Adamsons is the largest manufacturer of containers in the United Kingdom with a capacity of 10,000 standard containers per annum. Adamsons was acquired in November, 1984 in order to expand the range of services provided by the Tiphook Group to its customers in the shipping and transportation industries.

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Although the Listing Particulars, which were advertised on 22nd July, 1985, correctly showed pro forma net tangible assets at 30th April, 1985 of £12.6 million, the document mistakenly attributed the whole of this figure to ordinary share capital. After the deduction of £3.5 million of preference share capital and the redemption premium payable thereon the adjusted net tangible assets attributable to Ordinary Shareholders at 30th April, 1985 amounted to £9.1 million. Accordingly the net tangible assets per Ordinary Share should have been shown as 62.5p and not 90.1p.

The Application List for the Ordinary Shares being offered for sale opened at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 25th July, 1985 and may be closed at any time after 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 30th July, 1985.

You are advised not to complete and lodge any application form until you have read the Offer for Sale (incorporating Listing Particulars and the supplement thereto published on 25th July, 1985) copies of which may be obtained from

Tiphook plc  
Chelsea House  
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L. Mould & Co.  
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Enquiries regarding the availability and distribution of copies of the Offer for Sale can be made between 9.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. today, Saturday, 27th July, 1985 by telephoning Barclays Merchant Bank Limited (01-623 4321).

## APPLICATION FORM

### Procedure for application

Applications must be lodged with or posted to The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, New Issues Department, 24 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BA, so as to arrive in either case not later than 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 30th July, 1985 (being the earliest time of closing of the application list). Applicants are advised to use first class mail and should allow as much time as possible for delivery.

Each application must be accompanied by a separate cheque or banker's draft drawn in sterling on a branch in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man of a bank which is a member of the London and Country Bank Group or which has arranged for the clearing of cheques and banker's drafts to be cleared through the facilities provided by the members of those Clearing Houses (and which must bear the appropriate sorting code number in the top right hand corner), made payable to "The Royal Bank of Scotland plc" and crossed "Not Negotiable", representing payment in full at the Offer for Sale price. Applications will be irrevocable until Monday, 31st August, 1985. Photostat copies of application forms will not be accepted.

No person receiving a copy of this document or an application form in any territory other than the United Kingdom may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such form, unless in the relevant territory such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such form could lawfully be used without contravention of any regulation or other legal requirements.

The basis of allocation will be announced on or as soon as possible after Tuesday, 30th July, 1985. Renounceable Letters of Acceptance are expected to be despatched to successful applicants on Friday, 2nd August, 1985.

The Offer for Sale and the acceptance of applications is conditional on the whole of the ordinary share capital of the Company issued and to be issued under the Offer for Sale being admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange not later than Wednesday, 7th August, 1985.

Letters of Acceptance will be renounceable up to 3.00 p.m. on 30th August, 1985.

Dealings in the Ordinary Shares of the Company are expected to commence on Monday, 5th August, 1985.

## Tiphook plc

(Registered in England and Wales under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1980 No. 1580263)

### Offer for Sale

by

### Barclays Merchant Bank Limited

of 5,454,545 Ordinary Shares at a price of 110p per share payable in full on application

Shares	£	Shares	£
200	22,000	2,000	2,200,000
400	44,000	5,000	5,500,000
600	66,000	10,000	11,000,000
800	88,000	20,000	22,000,000
1,000	110,000	50,000	5,500,000

Applications must be for a minimum of 200 shares and thereafter in multiples of 200 shares up to 1,000 shares, in multiples of 500 shares up to 5,000 shares, in multiples of 1,000 shares up to 10,000 shares, in multiples of 5,000 shares up to 50,000 shares and in multiples of 10,000 shares thereafter.

TO: BARCLAYS MERCHANT BANK LIMITED  
I/We enclose a sterling cheque or banker's draft payable to "The Royal Bank of Scotland plc" and crossed "Not Negotiable" (or the appropriate equivalent in any other currency) for the amount payable in full on application for the stated number of Ordinary Shares of Tiphook plc ("the Shares") at 110p per share. I/We agree to accept the same number of Shares in respect of which the application may be accepted upon the terms of the Offer for Sale dated 25th July, 1985 (as amended by the supplement to the Listing Particulars published on 25th July, 1985) and the procedure for application set out therein and to subject the Shares to the conditions of the said Offer for Sale for the aggregate number of 5,454,545 Ordinary Shares of the Company. I/We agree that the application shall be irrevocable and non-transferable until Monday, 31st August, 1985 and that this paragraph shall constitute a collateral contract between me/us and you/which shall become binding upon dispatch by mail or delivery of this application form duly completed to The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, New Issues Department, 24 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9BA, in accordance with the instructions contained in the form.

I/We declare that due completion and delivery of this application form, accompanied by a cheque or banker's draft, constitutes a representation that the cheque or banker's draft will be honoured on first presentation. I/We acknowledge that any Letter of Acceptance and any surplus application moneys may be retained pending clearance of all applicants' cheques and banker's drafts.

<p>Signature _____ Date _____ 1985</p> <p>PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS Forename(s) in full _____</p> <p>Surname and designation (Mr., Mrs., Miss or title) _____</p> <p>Address (in full) _____</p> <p>(Postcode) _____</p>		<p>ALL JOINT APPLICANTS MUST SIGN AND GIVE NAMES AND ADDRESSES BELOW. The signature on behalf of a corporation should be that of a duly authorised official who should state his representative capacity.</p> <p>If this form is signed by an attorney, the power or a duly certified copy thereof must accompany this form.</p> <p>No receipt will be issued for the payment on application, but an acknowledgement will be forwarded in due course through the post, at the risk of the applicant(s), by a fully paid renounceable Letter of Acceptance and/or a cheque for any application moneys returnable.</p>		<p>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</p> <p>1. Acceptance No. _____</p> <p>2. Shares accepted _____</p> <p>3. Amount received _____</p> <p>4. Amount payable _____</p> <p>5. Amount returned _____</p> <p>6. Cheque Number _____</p>
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<p>3 Signatures Forename(s) (in full) _____</p> <p>Address (in full) _____</p> <p>(Postcode) _____</p>		<p>Surname and designation (Mr., Mrs., Miss or title) _____</p> <p>(Postcode) _____</p>		
<p>4 Signatures Forename(s) (in full) _____</p> <p>Address (in full) _____</p> <p>(Postcode) _____</p>		<p>Surname and designation (Mr., Mrs., Miss or title) _____</p> <p>(Postcode) _____</p>		

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## WEEK-END ARTS



Marvin Gaye

The saga leading to Marvin Gaye's murder had the inevitability of Greek tragedy — and has been ideally documented in David Ritz's memoir. W. J. Weatherby reports

## Marvin and Marvin: tied by blood

THE killing of Marvin Gaye last year by his father was one of the most shocking events of recent Show Business history. Not only was Marvin Gaye a great popular singer in the class of Billie Holiday and Sam Cooke, but his violent death in the middle of a family squabble was the climax of a genuine Greek tragedy that has now been documented in detail.

The trial of Marvin Gaye, senior (the singer added "e" to his last name) didn't bring out the complete story, partly because his father was found to have a brain tumour and pleaded no contest to a reduced charge of voluntary manslaughter. But some of the omissions have now been filled in by Marvin Gaye's former friend and fellow song writer, David Ritz, in a memoir entitled *Divided Soul: The Life of Marvin Gaye* that has just appeared in the United States and will be published in Britain by Michael Joseph later this year.

David Ritz, who co-authored Ray Charles's autobiography, planned to do the same with Gaye until they fell out over dividing the income from "Sexual Healing", one of the great singer's last and most successful songs, which they wrote together. Based on long conversations with Gaye, his father, mother, brothers, sisters and cousins, *Divided Soul* reaffirms the impression left by the brief trial — that Marvin Gaye and his father were on a collision course.

Gaye, Sr., a minister at the time of Marvin's birth, is described as a flamboyant, sometimes effeminate seeming man who liked to dress up in women's clothes occasionally in his home. Marvin himself confessed to the same urge, but said he had no sexual interest in men and he had no evidence his father had. Both men seemed to have an ambivalent, almost Victorian attitude towards sex — a very powerful urge coupled with a conviction that the desires of the flesh were sinful.

Young Marvin was regularly beaten until his teens and the protests and prayers of his mother made no difference. Despairing of pleasing him, the boy went to the opposite extreme and began deliberately provoking his father. It influenced his attitude for the rest of his life. He would seek affection through provocation of violence. "A perverse pattern of behaviour," comments David Ritz, "which would literally kill him."

He took up singing partly to win his father's love. But his father was not impressed. If it hadn't been for his mother's support, Marvin said once, "I think I would have been one of those child suicide cases you read about in the papers."

With his great talent, his handsome looks and immense charm, he was soon a successful performer, but an inner insecurity always seemed to upset every stage of his career. He seemed to need to prove continually he was not like his father. He even boxed himself in a gym to give himself a very masculine image, and was continually worried about his sexual relationships with women. He seemed to have more and more in a vicious circle. Just as beatings caused bed-wetings which then led to more beatings, so ralloping insecurity led to drugs which then increased his insecurity until he developed an uncontrollable paranoia.

## Pick of TV and radio

## Monday

**Nagasaki** — The Return Journey (BBC 1, 9.25). First of five programmes this week commemorating the 40th anniversary of the atomic bomb. Two Britons who witnessed the destruction of Nagasaki, Group Captain Leonard Cheshire and Geoffrey Sherwood, a POW at the time, returned to the city for a Peace Ceremony, still convinced the bombing was justified. The Japanese took a different view — and barred Cheshire from their ceremony.

**From The Cradle To The Grave** (ITV, 8.30). First of a series probing the gaps in the Welfare State explores the current housing crisis.

## Tuesday

**Pythons On The Mountain** (BBC 2, 9.25). A familiar theme with TV dramatists — smart-arse country boy escapes the village of his hood and his white Welsh seppies, to return, a literary somebody who could "crawl back in and exorcise the memory of poor old Dad and the girl he loved and left. All poems and seduction."

**The First Forty Years** (BBC 2, 10.15). The Bomb part causes with politicians and scientists the theory, much talked by the media and lobby, that it is the deterrent that has kept the peace (?) these past four decades.

**Bill Oddie Birdwatcher** (ITV, 10.30). A rare sighting of the small binocular Oddie — only the fifth in five weeks.

## Wednesday

**The War Game** (BBC 2, 9.30). If anything, the after-effects of a nuclear attack depicted in Peter Watkins's cleverly constructed film — banned from the screen for 20 years as "too horrifying" — look understated in the light of our current knowledge, like the Blitz taken one step further. Yet the unemotional, convincing presentation of post-holocaust death and injury, food riots and snarling and the reality of civil defence precautions still make an impact — reinforced by the recent dramatic documentary it inspired, *Threads*, to be reshown on Thursday (BBC 1, 9.25).

**True Romance** (BBC 1, 9.25). Real Lives documentary that boasts the most cringeable scenes in the history of television as the winners are selected in a magazine competition for the most romantic true love story. And that's only foreplay compared with the prinking, mauling, coiffing and distortion that the winners, the lucky couple into front cover material, a ghastly pastiche of Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney.

## Thursday

**The Hidden Curriculum** (CA, 9.30). Northern Ireland is undoubtedly the "necessary subject," as Susan Stanton recently called it. This play's focus is on a Loyalist Comprehensive school which "mass-produces semi-literate morons" — one old boy has been murdered as an informer, another gaoled as an assassin. Then a naive but principled teacher tries to change the system.

**A Still Small Sound** (BBC 2, 10.15). Joke spy story set in a Thatcherite world where amateur secret agents come cheaper. Our man in Romania, a writer lured by the prospect of "wonderful terror," tries to help an "Eastern bloc SDP person" defect.

**Commercial Errands** (BBC 2, 9.30). Would you buy your child an £800 bed modelled on Cinderella's coach? Strangely, lack of customers is the one problem of the worker Victor Clark doesn't face in the struggle to set up his own business. Perhaps there's a future in pumpkins. Helen Oldfield

## Radio

**Today: In All Fairness: The Question of Race** (Radio 4, 9.30). Susan Marling looks at the present state of discrimination. The Plain People (Radio 4, 3.30pm). The Amish people of America have eschewed worldly progress and kept themselves "themselves." Bernard Jackson visited one family for a week and reports on their way of life and their beliefs.

**Tomorrow: I, Claudius** (Radio 4, 2.30 pm). Repeat of the splendid Monday Play adaptation of the Graves novel.

**Death** (Radio 3, 6.45pm). Kelly Kleinman, dragged from his bed in the early hours to join the search for a crazed killer, in Woody Allen's mid-70s comedy.

**Lord Jim** (Radio 4, 7 pm). Six-part dramatisation of Conrad's classic novel.

**Monday: Claudius the God** (Radio 4, 8.15pm). We left Claudius last week, newly elected Emperor: compelling drama.

**Tuesday: Letters to the Ottery** (Radio 4, 3pm). Peter Terson's new play about a mother who leaves her family behind in Ottery St Mary to go to Greenham Common.

Val Arnold-Foster

Nancy Banks-Smith reviews Luck and Flaw

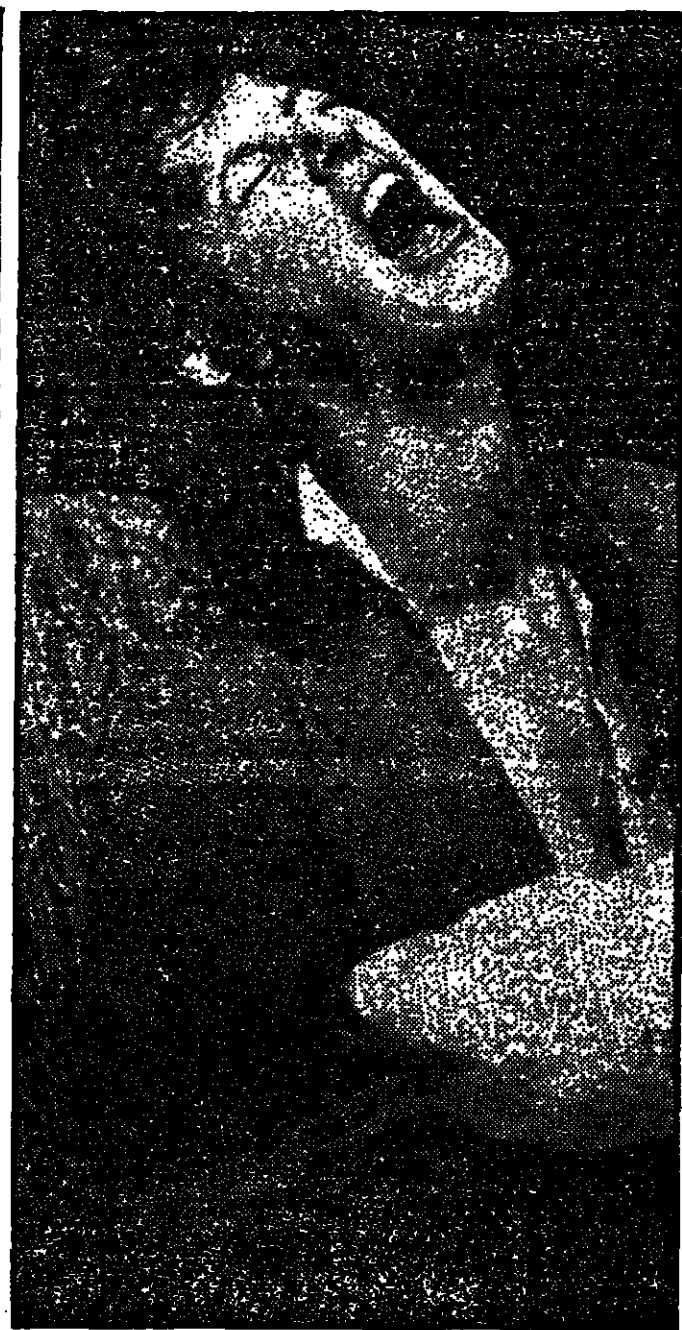
## Spiffing image

LET US not fiddle nervously around the fringes, discussing the Function of Caricature in a Free Society and Other Ethical Dilemmas, but plunge right into the heart of the matter. Does Mrs Thatcher wear a wig?

In Luck and Flaw's Illustrated Guide to Caricature (BBC 1), Charles Weeks, wigmaker by appointment to almost everybody in Spitting Image, turned a head of Mrs Thatcher thoughtfully on his hand and gave it as his professional opinion that her natural hair didn't have the body to maintain that Boadicea bonnet effect.

I wouldn't mind betting," he said, "that she actually wears like a three-quarter wig in behind the hairline. Queen Mary and some of the royals have worn them in the past. It's very useful for travelling. The back is always pensively set and the front combed over that piece. It's a guaranteed image."

I always understood that Queen Mary wore what were known as fronts. Did she, verily, wear backs and fronts? Was Queen Mary, in fact, as bald as a billiard ball? You have to hand it to wigmakers. As a class they are clearly as subversive as cartoonists. Nothing is more likely to rivet your fascinated attention on a public personage than the hope that her hair might take off in a high wind.



Maggie Steed as Woman. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

CHELTEMHAM  
Barry Still

## Aquarius

WAS IT as long ago as 1963 that Arthur Bliss's A Knot of Riddles was first heard at Cheltenham Festival? Scored with a fastidious Ravelian touch, he had no hesitation in inscribing words of homage to the Frenchman at the top of the fifth number. Here a deep awareness of the possibilities offered by five strings, five winds and harp, the seven settings for baritone voice of Old English puzzles sounded freshly minted and almost ingenuously in their appeal. Brian Kay was the singer, and if he was perhaps too precise or straightfaced, this isn't us, like children, to get our own answers, though the composer does set the solution in the final bars of each song.

True, there is realism in the descriptions of fish, swal-

lows, weathercock and the rest, but Bliss must have enjoyed the mysterious side of this commission, also. In this performance Nicholas Cleobury directed Aquarius with affection and, achieved a secure balance with the soloist until A Cross of Wood, the climax of the sequence, and Sun and Moon, when the ecstatic instrumental support was over. An inspired and entrancing piece of musical entertainment.

Walton's Facade is given just that title, and is almost a set of riddles too, where we make from the incongruous texts our own associations. Again, Cleobury supervised a bright intriguing reading, full of happy nuance and artifice. Prunella Scales and Sir Kay sharing the amplified recitation. Her wide stage experience ensured sparkling delivery (with rustic, Scottish and cockney dialects), while his words were occasionally lost only through the accompaniment being on lower pitched instruments.

Michael Finnis's Catana, grounded in Romanian

folk song, with its intensely vigorous rhythmic patterns set against passages of highly ornamental melody, had proved an extremely acid aperitif to the festival delight to follow despite the exertions of Cleobury and his young devotees. Any meaningful purpose escaped most of those present.

ELECTRIC  
BALLROOM

Mick Brown

## Robert Kray Band

THE capacity audience at the Electric Ballroom — London's most ill ventilated and uncomfortable venue — was a testament to Robert Kray's growing reputation as the new hot-shot of the blues. Well, it's about time we had a new hot-shot and Kray probably fits the bill as

well as anyone — a fluent guitarist and a fine singer with the improbably spruce and clean-cut appearance of a TV soap opera hospital intern.

But there is something less to Robert Kray than his reputation suggests, and possibly something more. His performance is an interesting conundrum. One half of it — the half on which that reputation is seemingly being constructed — is a familiar style of hand-me-down blues, borrowed as much from George Thorogood or Johnny Winter as from the people they borrowed it from. It is blues with a distinct rock sensibility, a thumping rhythm section eager to please, proficiently executed. But one feels one's heard it all before.

The other half is much more interesting. This is where Kray suddenly begins to come on like a Memphis soul man, investing his songs with the melodic nuances, the breath of polish and sophistication which begs comparison with a Jonnie Taylor or a William Bell. Payn For It Now in particular offers the sultry confessional tone and the intriguing moral twist of any

number of Taylor songs. One wished at a time like this that Kray had a three-piece horn section behind him and a piano player who understood the value of discretion rather than an over-enthusiastic pouring chords like treacle wherever he ventured. One wished his band wore suits rather than t-shirts.

As a songwriter Kray has still to fully define his own signature. As a guitarist he is distinguished enough, but short of mastery. His greatest asset is his voice — cool, leisurely, assured beyond his years, actually a badlad rather than a blues voice. Those who fancy him to be the heir apparent to Albert or B. B. King will win, but with the slightest musical adjustment, selective editing, and a new wardrobe Kray could be giving Bobby Womack a run for his money.

## EXETER

Nicolas Cottis

## Bless the Bride

THE A. P. Herbert musical Bless The Bride is having its first professional revival since the 1940s at the Northcott Theatre in Exeter. As well as such well known Vivian Ellis songs as La Bella Margarita and This Is My Lovely Day, it turns out to have an ingeniously composed first act, in which a lot of falling arpeggios reappear in number after number to assist P. Herbert, MP and divorce-law reformer, in passing some tart comments on the institution of marriage.

The singing roles are well cast, with Jan Hartley in lustrious voice as the heroine, Vivian Ellis's stature as a composer is the O'Ganbech league is well served by Stewart Trotter's direction is wilfully saccharine and the choreography seems determined to kick anything that looks like irony out into the wings. One would never guess that Bless The Bride was years ahead of its time (for the West End) in combining music, theatre with social concern.

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TODAY 2.30 & 7.30  
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Pick of TV and radio

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Tuesday

1. **News** (BBC 1, 2.30 p.m.) - A sobering account of the day's events, including the death of Lord Harewood.

Wednesday

1. **News** (BBC 1, 2.30 p.m.) - A sobering account of the day's events, including the death of Lord Harewood.

Thursday

1. **News** (BBC 1, 2.30 p.m.) - A sobering account of the day's events, including the death of Lord Harewood.

Friday

1. **News** (BBC 1, 2.30 p.m.) - A sobering account of the day's events, including the death of Lord Harewood.

Radio

1. **News** (BBC 1, 2.30 p.m.) - A sobering account of the day's events, including the death of Lord Harewood.

WEEK-END PEOPLE

THE bookstall at Paddington Station stocks an assortment of Ted Albury's novels in two piles, whose disorderly nature tends to reflect the disorderly nature of the author. Albury is the spy writer, and a new title on this heap is as ardently sought by addicted commuters as a vacant seat on the 6.25. Consequently, the new title was not new (just new to the heap) but it contained a name that called for revised travel arrangements.

At his home in Lambeth, Kent, the following day, Albury told me about Oberst-Lieutenant Lemke, last heard of in his first book *Choice of Enemies*. He admitted that Lemke had been on his mind a lot at one time. It was an arrest, that became a dog's breakfast.

In 1945 Albury's field security unit were rounding up Gestapo, Abwehr, SS, and other "naughties" in an area of Germany the size of old Yorkshire. They had been turning over 50 a day to the interrogated centre. When confronted with his naughtiness, Lemke, not his real name — had looked like as righteous as the man from the Pru, but as Albury often reminded himself, the Gestapo invariably resembled Uncle Charlie because they were someone's Uncle Charlie. By this time he was adept at distinguishing the real naughties from late party members or the soft wing of the SS.

Lemke fitted neither category. He was a Luftwaffe colonel who had given, or passed, the order for several captured RAF officers to be shot while handcuffed. I was very angry about this because the brother of a friend was one of those shot on the back while he was peeing in a hedge.

Discovering that Lemke's daughter was secretary to the military governor, the 28-year-old Albury had her dismissed.

Shortly afterwards the SPD newspaper, *Hannoversche Nachrichten*, carried a dirty great headline saying: "Sonderzug, meaning 'Visiting the sins of the fathers on their

Choice of the nice and the Nazi

children, and revealing the latest outrage by the British Gestapo. This was a bit rich, as Albury had assisted the paper's birth by arranging supplies of newspaper. He apologised publicly but, unable to get the girl reinstated, had to employ her himself. "I had put my mark on her," he says. Small wonder that Len Deighton regards Albury as "the original Harry Palmer."

There is a further echo to the one which sounded at Paddington Station. The Lemke episode is detailed in Albury's first book *Choice of Enemies*, a fictional account of his post-war exploits. In this tale, the hero's daughter is abducted by her mother. Recalled from his advertising naughtiness, the hero is persuaded to defect in order to be reunited with his daughter, now 18, in Poland. He eventually escapes with — and marries — his

beautiful Polish minder, Grazyna. At this point fact intervenes. Grazyna is the name of Albury's Polish wife. His four-year-old daughter was abducted by her mother, to whom Albury was not married. Despite his strenuous efforts he did not see his daughter again until this year, when a Sunday paper tracked her down in Dublin.

It was a remarkable prediction to have made. In 1973, but his joy was short-lived. "The same old Mafia put the clamp on her not to see me any more, so I didn't see her very happily." The Mafia? "What they call in Dublin the Murphys. If you tangle with the top politicians in Dublin you're going to get done over. Not politically, but they look after their own."

Albury had joined the Army Intelligence Corps at the beginning of the war

after answering an advertisement in the Times. He was signed up behind a barber's shop in Trafalgar Square. "There was this delightful Evelyn Waugh-type colonel who said 'My boy, you're joining a wonderful club. This will stand you in good stead all your life. Bring your sports car, we'll see you get petrol coupons.'"

This remark worried him. They had said he had been thoroughly vetted. "A few weeks before I had bought my first motorcycle. It was my first real doubt about the efficiency of British Intelligence."

Doubts multiplied when he discovered that the three men engaged with him on their first exercise — cleaning the sergeants' toilets — were professors with double firsts in French and German. Albury was a grossly undereducated jig saw, lost draughtsman from the

backstreets of Birmingham. "I thought 'Shit, I'm not going to survive amongst this lot.'"

His asset was intuition. "My father, who was a career soldier with the Black Watch, died when I was about 18 months, and I was brought up by a pack of women. The Gestapo is nothing compared to that. As a result I had a better instinct than people with much better trained minds."

"MIA weren't a terribly well respected outfit in those days. Their recruitment wasn't much more than 'I hear Bumbo's back from Kuala Lumpur; we'd better take him to the Athenium and find out what the Chinks are up to.'"

In Italy and Africa (see *The Girl from Addis*) he wended out underground movements. "You were always taking colonels out from under ladies' beds or finding

them in wardrobes. That was rather sporting and decently done. When we got to Germany it put a stop to all the nice bits."

He claims the denazification programme was too successful. Most of the qualified judges were Jewish, prompting accusations that defendants would not receive a fair trial. "In fact, if I'd been a German naughty I would have chosen them, because they bent over backwards to be just. But it meant that tens of thousands of naughty boys were jailed without trial."

He draws a veil over events after he began a line-crossing operation into East Germany ("It would give offence") until his de-mob as a Lieutenant-Colonel in 1947. He went from advertising to PR and running a pirate radio station, scrapped by the Marine Broadcasting Of-

fences Act in 1967. He began to write after the disappearance of his daughter, and has published 29 novels.

In the main he writes approvingly of the intelligence services, but he can expose their vindictive side, as in *No Place to Hide*. "There are layers of warnings," he says. "You find that the Inland Revenue suddenly wants to talk about your tax returns of 10 years ago. Or you get parking tickets and your wheel clamped when nobody else in the street does. If you don't take the hint it becomes rather worse."

He has occasionally been asked to give an opinion. He has noticed that his books are in the library of the nearby Intelligence Corps at Ashford. No doubt they have his latest *Children of Tender Years*, published by New English Library, £8.95.

The bedside manner: Sokari. Picture by Martin Argles

All's weld that ends well

WHEN Sokari's father died last November she decided to bring his funeral bed back to life. Her father was a chief of the Kalabari people, travelling folk in southern Nigeria who traded their fish for goods among the islands of the Niger delta. As she donned a pair of welding goggles, the scene filled her mind.

The dead chief's house had been thronged with relatives who had travelled by speedboat from the mortuary at Port Harcourt. In the funeral room their clothes had billowed in the airstream of Japanese electric fans containing swimming fish. The night was filled with the music of 15 bands in the courtyard outside. Handkerchiefs fluttered throughout the wake, keeping flies from the body. It seemed to her as though they were blowing air to her father while waving a tearful farewell.

The mood is recreated in her extraordinary kinetic sculpture and Church Ede (Church Bed), the centrepiece of an exhibition of her work at the October Gallery (until August 31). Batteries activate disembodied arms waving handkerchiefs in front of coiled mourners and metal head-dresses. The whole contraption palpitates with a frightening kind of joy.

Sokari Douglas Camp (26) is a postgraduate student at the Royal College of Art, whose work has been shown in exhibitions and a Channel 4 documentary.

Her childhood was unusual. She was brought up by her sister, who was married to an English anthropologist. At the age of three Sokari became his ward when her sister died. She was sent to school in Oxford, then studied in America before coming to terms with her own culture while under



the tutelage of a Yoruba craftsman in Nigeria. By then she was married to an Englishman and had become Mrs Camp. "I am very wary of disturbing anything in my own culture," she says. "Traditional carving at home is connected with medicine and has a function. Kalabari people think that real art is dancing and dress. Their carved figures are flat and geometric: they feel that if

Paper tiger

ONE OF the Government's whips, Tristan Garel Jones was packing his bags for his summer holidays in Spain yesterday with the satisfaction of having helped to avoid a humiliating defeat for Mrs Thatcher over top people's pay. Yet paradoxically he comes from the wet wing of the party opposed to Thatcherism.

Welsh born, Garel Jones is a Tory with natural Liberal inclinations: whose one complaint about the wets is that they are too soggy to stand firm. His father made money in Spain with language schools and he married a Spanish heiress once active in the Communist Party.

This session, his dumpy figure has been seen plodding around the tea rooms trying to persuade his reluctant Tory friends to join the Prime Minister for a bite to eat in the Members' canteen. His usual greeting is "stand easy" coupled with a slightly sloppy military salute.

One experienced right-wing rebel protested to Garel Jones he had used exaggerated threats "to frighten the young sprogs." Garel Jones said with the candour of a secondhand car dealer that he had done was tell them that the Lady had a piece of paper in her pocket which she would read out if the Government was defeated. They thought that meant the Prime Minister would resign and they would spend the holidays on the beach, that was up to them.

However, the case also worked on one experienced backbencher. Having returned from a relaxed dinner for the 1.57 am vote he asked Garel Jones on the front bench if it was true the Government could be defeated. He was told about the Prime Minister's piece of paper. "If you don't believe me, ask John." The Chief Whip, Michael Heseltine, said it was true. The Tory rebel dutifully voted for the Government.

The next day, the same backbencher discovered that the piece of paper was a statement — to be used in the event of defeat — of the Prime Minister's intention to seek a vote of confidence the next day which she would have certainly won. There was no question of any general election.



Playing to the Roeg's gallery

BENEATH a street grating, two movie technicians wrestle with a huge fan while craning their necks to catch a glimpse of the white-skirted figure above. The fan whirrs, the skirt lifts. "What did you see?" cries one. "I saw the face of God," says the other in awe.

This is the beginning of Nicolas Roeg's film *Insignificance*, a fantasy in which characters identifiable as Marilyn Monroe, Al Pacino, Joe McCarthy and Joe di Maggio put the theory of relativity to the test. The critics can argue about what it all means when the film opens in London on August 9. What does Theresa Russell, who plays the Monroe lookalike, think? "Don't ask me to try," she grins. "Sometimes I say it's an anti-nuclear black comedy. It's impossible to describe."

The Californian actress should be the best person to consult after the director, since she lives with him near Notting Hill. It is safe to say that she gives a stunning performance as the alabaster limbed goddess, a performance that can only be surpassed by the forthcoming production of her second child. She is hugely and happily pregnant.

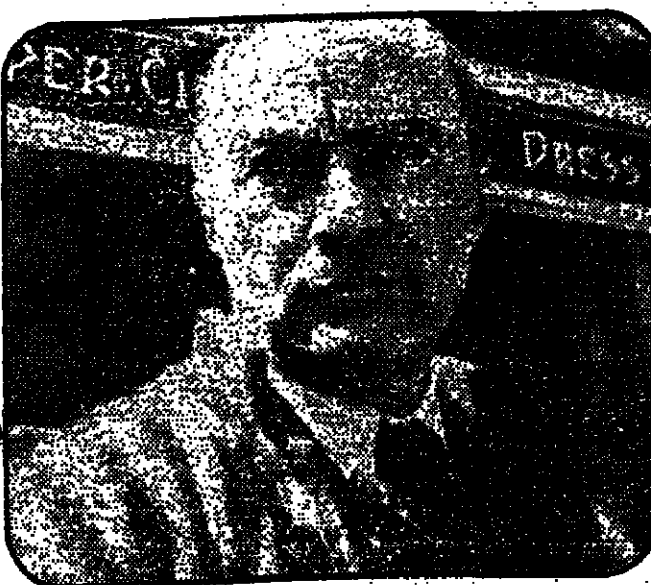
Russell (28) has been described as one of the most sensual and original actresses on film. She established her reputation in *Elia Kazan's* *The Last Tycoon* and has garish reviews in *Ulli Grosbard's* *Straight Time* and the Watgate TV series *Blind Ambition*. Her films with Roeg are *Bad Timing* and *Eureka*.

Insignificance emits many odd resonances, as we buff say, but none stranger than seeing the real Tony Curtis playing opposite an imaginary Monroe.

She was careful not to attempt an impersonation of Monroe. "Whatever you think of her the woman had a certain magic, some kind of kiss from the gods. You can't act that. I tried to make a commentary on her. I enjoyed the research, all most as much as doing it. Doing it was like testing to see if all the pieces of the puzzle fitted."

She admits that living with the director had its drawbacks. "It gets harder to surprise someone who knows you so well. I love working with Nick, but we are not a team. I am sure we will work together again. I think there's a mutual admiration for each other's work."

Mother Theresa could not have put it better.



Spa a thought for the man from the Met

NOTHING like having the bidders into make you want to get out. John Dexter hopes his new home in Holland Park will be ready by the time Gilt opens in September. That's when the dog comes out of quarantine too. Meanwhile he was happy to be tempted at short notice to direct an opera for the Buxton Festival under circumstances he would never have tolerated at the Met.

Like two weeks rehearsal, and not enough money to finish the set. "I told them to use my fee. I mean they've practically no money to do anything since the Arts Council axe fell. There

wasn't anybody to look after props during the first week of rehearsal. We had to make do ourselves." Dexter is pleased to be back in Buxton though. Back? Well, he's a Derby man and he remembers cycling to the Buxton Opera House in 1940 to see *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Good Natured Man* with Robert Donat. Constance Cummings, Stuart Grainger. "And perhaps Sonia Dresel," he adds, "and cycling through the peak district is no joke, I can tell you. It's partly this particular theatre: 'I like small 19th century theatres,' he says.

The Piccinni opera that he is directing, said by Goldoni out of Samuel Richardson's

novel *Pamela*, he finds musically ravishing. "I can see why it was the My Fair Lady of its day. If you can get the element of parody right in the production, then the whole show becomes buoyant. But there's not really time to sort it out and get that delicate balance."

How did he like managing on a shoestring after the Met? "I don't want to support Mrs Thatcher and Lord Gower, but I think it's possible to do things more economically than happens in some big institutions. It's not necessarily a bad thing that in less elitist circumstances, the economy can dictate the style and the style reflect the economy."

Dexter has been taking his time about settling to something else since finally leaving the Met. He doesn't see any role for himself at either the National or the RSC. "I don't think I'll be doing much for Lord Hall." But he's interested in some rather riskier openings that seem to be beckoning now.

He's clearly intrigued at the idea of a closer link with the Buxton Festival, which is looking for some kind of saviour now that Malcolm Fraser, the producer who was most closely involved with the reopening of the restored Matcham theatre, has been whisked off to Cincinnati as Professor of Opera. "What Buxton needs is a large injection of

money," he says. But he won't be centring his activities there. It's safe to assume. There are plans for theatre companies in London, simmering away. Even perhaps for something outside the West End altogether. He's seen an ideal venue near his new home that makes his eyes light up.

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

1960

JULY 27: It is understood that Mr Roy Jenkins, MP, is to give up his Front Bench position. Opposition spokesman, second to Mr Harold Wilson, on economic affairs because he disagrees strongly with the views expressed during Monday's (July 25) debate on the Common Market by Mr Wilson and Mr Denis Healey.

Both of them voiced considerable doubts on the political merits of joining the Six. Mr Jenkins is a strong advocate of British membership of the Common Market. He was one of the original sponsors of a statement issued on Monday, with all-party support, urging that Britain should join it.

JULY 28: The National Executive of the Labour Party will stand and fight at the annual conference in October on the proposition that, whatever the delegates decide about nuclear disarmament, Labour MPs are entitled to carry out the collective defence policy on which they fought the general election.

This is the effect of a statement adopted by the Executive yesterday. Although a document prepared by the general secretary, Mr Morgan Phillips, does not specifically mention the defence controversy, it comes down quite firmly with the principle: "This (election) manifesto on which its members are elected is the one thing to which, under the constitution, the parliamentary party is bound."

Mr Phillips, in a document which stands out through its sheer frankness, common sense, and shrewdness from all the rather turgid stuff he has produced since the general election, has set against the sovereign principle of Roman origin, the sovereign people.

JULY 29: Mr Garfield Todd, the former Southern Rhodesia Prime Minister, last night (July 28) ended to all practical purposes his political career when he resigned from the Central Africa Party.

To the end he was more a missionary than a politician. The letter he wrote to Lord Home asking Britain to intervene in Southern Rhodesia was penned from the best motives. But it has inevitably led to his resignation and this will just as inevitably lead to the breaking up in Southern Rhodesia of the Central Africa Party, the only true multiracial party in the colony. It was, without doubt, a disastrous letter.

JULY 30: Accra, July 29. The Government of Ghana today announced a complete boycott of South African goods, and a ban on the entry of transit through Ghanaian territory of all South Africans, except those who declare opposition to apartheid and racial discrimination...

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Gary Birtles, footballer, 29; Christopher Dean, ice skater, 27; Jo Durie, tennis player, 26; Bobbie Gentry, ballad singer, 41; Harry Patterson, alias Jack Higgins, author, 56; Shirley Williams, president, Social Democratic Party, 55.

TOMORROW: The Earl of Cromer, merchant banker, former Governor of the Bank of England, 67; Robert Henderson, chairman, Ulster Television, 56; Riccardo Muti, conductor, 44; Jacqueline Onassis, 56; Sir Karl Popper, philosopher, 53; Sir Gary Sobers, cricketer, 40.

MONDAY: Nigel Aspinall, croquet player, 38; Max Faulkner, golfer, 69; Lords Grimond, Scarman, and Westminster, 72, 74, and 61.

TUESDAY: Paul Anka, singer, songwriter, 44; Peter Bogdanovich, film director, 46; Kate Bush, singer, songwriter, 27; Teresa Cahill, soprano, 41; Frances de la Tour, actress, 41; Gerald Moore, accompanist, 86; Henry Moore, OM, C, sculptor, 57; Sir Clive Sinclair, electronics engineer, 45.

WEDNESDAY: G. O. B. Allen, cricketer, 83; Stewart Bedford, conductor, 46; Evonne Cawley, tennis player, 34; Christine Cennamo, actress, 41; Norman del Mar, conductor, 66; Jonathan Dimbleby, television journalist, 41; Professor Milton Friedman, economist, 73; Brian Lister, author, journalist, 69; Ralph Koltai, stage designer, 61; Peter Nichols, playwright, 58.

THURSDAY: Lionel Bart, composer, lyricist, playwright, 55; Franz Hessel, theatre director, 83; Yves Saint Laurent, couturier, 49; Laurie Taylor, professor of sociology, York, broadcaster, 50.

FRIDAY: James Baldwin, novelist, 61; Christopher Ross, chairman, Courtsals, 48; Sammy McIlroy, footballer, 31; Lord (Len) Murray, 63; Peter O'Toole, actor, 53.

People is written by Stuart Wavell

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FIRST—AND STILL FOREMOST



## Sanctions are suddenly top of the agenda

As week one of the South African emergency ends amid continuing violence in the townships and rising international protest, it becomes clear that President Botha has severely reduced his options by increasing his powers of repression. With the officially reported arrests (which may not be the whole story) approaching 1,000 yesterday, the detention rate has risen sharply, its main targets being local, grassroots black leaders. All this could have been done under the Internal Security Act which, state of emergency or no, lets the police hold people without charge or trial or risk of judicial interference and virtually indefinitely. The state of emergency in the most disorderly areas is therefore no more than a gesture to the white right wing, which has accused Mr Botha of selling out with his promises of reform. The blacks were already discounting these before the cosmetic crackdown.

The extra powers bring the apparent advantages to the oppressor of censorship and immunity from prosecution for his uniformed terrorists, as well as dispensing with the bureaucracy attached, even in South Africa, to locking people up and throwing the key away. But there are more than 100 laws inhibiting press freedom, and the security forces did not seem to be losing much sleep over the deaths, injuries and detentions they caused before the emergency, when the Internal Security Act was already working overtime. For these modest gains in freedom of action Mr Botha faces a large bill which is still far from complete. He cannot do the obvious and talk to the real leaders of black opinion like Nelson Mandela without losing face because this would now appear to be a concession to the violence he has staked his reputation on crushing. To slam the cell door on this possibility in present conditions is a major contribution to the history of political ineptitude.

Keeping one's options open in a crisis is a lesson Harold Wilson had to learn — too late — after he fell over himself to exclude the use of force against Rhodesian UDL. Force might well not have been the right answer any more than Mr Botha's version of conciliation may be in the different circumstances of South Africa, but the gratuitous exclusion of both must be regarded as mistaken. The Wilson government fell back on sanctions, which have won much new support as a measure against apartheid because of the state of emergency. Yet the British government makes the same kind of error by rushing to exclude them in advance, voluntarily isolating itself alongside the Americans at the UN.

The same tatty arguments are trotted out in London in a bid to mask the real reason for rejection: Britain's uniquely large financial stake in apartheid and the rewards it brings. There is the specious claim that they did not work against Rhodesia, the pious one that the main victims would be the people they are meant to help and the bankrupt one that dialogue is more effective than the big stick. To argue simultaneously that sanctions do not work and that they damaged the unprivileged is illogical. Sanctions did not end UDI and had much less impact on the black majority than the guerrilla war, but anyone who says they had no effect is suppressing the truth.

The startling effect on Pretoria of the French decision to impose very limited and inexpensive sanctions this week gives the lie to the insistent claim that South Africa is immune to foreign pressure. Pretoria's request to Washington for talks to clear the air after recent "misunderstandings" (like being caught trying to blow up an American oil complex in Angola) when the administration (as distinct from an increasingly hostile Congress) actually opposes sanctions hardly implies indifference to foreign opinion either. Meanwhile Downing Street, where diplomacy is not prized, and the Foreign Office, whose business is being nice to all manner of regimes, dismiss the unused stick in favour of the willing carrot. Britain does indeed have a bigger stake in South Africa than any other country, but that stake is a relatively small fraction of our worldwide trade and investment whereas it represents a very large slice of the South African economy. This means that Pretoria has rather more to lose than we do should we make use of our unmatched economic leverage intelligently. We ought surely to be concerned about what could happen to our interests if the rising tide of black anger eventually sweeps away the present regime. Failure before that to oppose apartheid rather than deploring it with folded hands could also damage our interests in the rest of Africa. The only way we can help the majority is to alleviate the pressure it lives under by counter-pressure on the system.

## Rattling towards a divided track

The TUC has an uncanny ability to inflict upon itself the maximum damage short of pressing the self-destruct button. This week, however, and more by bad luck than judgement, the trade union movement has come closer than ever before to splitting along ideological lines. The thought of "moderate" and "extreme" unions slugging it out might bring smirks to the lips of the more cynical Tory political managers. But to those who manage British industry and to all who depend upon its fruits (not least those 10 million who still hold down unionised jobs) the prospect of inter-union warfare on the shop floor, in the office, on the assembly line, in the pit and the printing plant, should be truly appalling.

A number of (relatively) separate issues have bubbled through the system together and in convenient time for a series of squabbles at Blackpool in September. The most immediate one is how the TUC backs away from the unreal commitment to almost automatic illegality made at its Wembley congress in 1982. This month the TUC has started to come to terms with Thatcherite legislation whilst pretending it has not. The crime committed by the Engineering Workers and the Electricians is that they publicly and proudly (rather than privately and shamefacedly) breached the policy by accepting government funding for postal ballots. Postal ballots are no panacea. But they are a perfectly proper and honourable way of consulting the lads and lasses — and a sight tidier than some other systems. The TUC boycott of "ballot money" was the most foolish element in a generally ill thought out policy.

But the ballot row has coincided with the arrival of Brother Lark of the mineworkers upon the national stage and has started a flurry of thought about a rival "moderate" TUC. It is all topped up by the Electricians' flirtation with Mr Eddie Shah. New technology and sole recognition agreements, like union democracy, are issues which demand calm deliberation rather than firecracker jumps.

Mr Norman Willis, the new TUC secretary, will be tested as never before in the coming month. And so will men as different as Mr Eric Hammond and Mr Arthur Scargill. There is no good reason why the TUC should split; but events are assuming a momentum of their own.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Uncreative accounting

Sir,—Though Mr F. B. Harrison of the National Coal Board (Letters, July 19) has offered a fair reply to Emilio Woolf's criticisms of the board's accounts, he has overlooked the real significance of what Mr Woolf had to say. The interest charge has not been ignored: on the contrary, Mr Woolf highlighted what an enormous burden has been created by borrowing to finance capital expenditure and coal stocks.

Surely the point about the interest charge is that the money goes straight back to the Exchequer via the Secretary of State for Energy. To that extent £200 million or so of the taxpayers' money included in Peter Walker's £1,300 million for last year is simply a book entry, a circulation of money which indicates public expenditure for no productive purpose.

Quite correctly this charge is excluded from operating payments, as are the large payments on account of redundancies and pit closures. On this point there is no quarrel with the Coal Board.

What Mr Harrison seeks to justify as part of operating costs is the £250 million or so paid out in subsidence compensation claims. The problem is acute in the North Norths area where no less than £113 million was charged to colliery operating costs in 1983-84. When Ian MacGregor was examined before the Select Committee for Energy, he admitted that the Coal Board was being "taken for a ride" over this, as reported in your issue of July 10.

The practical effect of this at operating level must, for example, that the Sherwood colliery's profit of £12 to £13 million was turned into a loss of £9 million, simply due to the cost of subsidence claims. These are surely more of the nature of "extraordinary items" carried on the profit and loss account, but which should not be allowed to distort the picture of pit economics.

Mr Woolf's argument was that if the £245 million subsidence damage charge was taken out of colliery operating costs, setting the reduced loss on deep-mined coal against the operating profit on opencast would show that the nation's coal industry is working roughly at break-even, at the operating level.

Charging subsidence claims to operating costs is an historic practice and when these claims were small, it mattered little. Today the situation has completely changed in some coal-bearing areas, ironically hitting Nottinghamshire hardest of all, where the miners have proved most loyal to their employers. As Mr MacGregor himself said in evidence, when these claims totalled numbers such as £5 or £7 a tonne, they make the economics of colliery mining completely different.

If the NCB chairman can acknowledge this simple fact, why cannot his finance director? The answer is that in charging subsidence damage to operating costs Mr Harrison is doing what the financial people have always done, as directed by the secretary of state. Far from ignoring the facts, Mr Woolf was arguing that this allocation of expenses should be reappraised in the light of changing circumstances.

Neither interest charges nor subsidence claims should be charged to the collieries. The answer is that they should be accepted—and it would make no difference to the ultimate outcome—the outlook for the mining industry at the operating level would appear much different.

Then it would be seen that virtually the whole of the £1,300 million payment of which the secretary of state has complained so bitterly was the creation of Government policies.

At these measures are of course necessary to deal with the problems of a contracting industry, but they have little to do with the economics of colliery mining itself. This is demonstrated by the opencast industry which, free of these complications, regularly generates an operating profit in excess of £200 million.—Yours faithfully, John D. Allen, 3 Hooft Road, London NW2.

### A COUNTRY DIARY

MACHYNILET: Looking back through my diary I see it was on May 17 that the excitement began. Just after dark I crept into the old abandoned cowshed across the yard from our back door and listened. From up in the blackness of the roof came a continual musical twittering. In daytime it could have come from a swallow; but by night it meant only this: that the eggs of the white owl had hatched. It was quite a moment: never in the 28 years we have lived here had white owls nested successfully in our buildings. So from May onwards our life became more than usually complicated. We have long been resigned to sharing our garden with various forms of wild life. All spring and summer we tiptoe about trying not to disturb the nesting birds or frighten away the grass snakes.

## The Geneva fig leaf Britain hides behind

Sir,—Your report (July 25) that the US "may not ratify Geneva protocols" raises some serious questions.

Protocol I 1977, spells out in some detail the basic principle of the law of armed conflict: that non-combatants must not be attacked. According to Article 48, it is a "basic rule" that the ties to the conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants. Special respect must be shown to children, women, the old, sick, and wounded.

Britain and the United States alone of the many signatories achieved the grotesque feat of negotiating and approving these basic humanitarian principles while adding a reservation that they would not apply during a nuclear war. It is this fundamental contradiction which lies at the root of current US and British reluctance to ratify these binding laws.

Repeated requests to our Government about the date of ratification are met with a bland statement that various details remain to be worked out. Only Denmark and Norway of the Nato powers have ratified this protocol.

But the issue of ratification is to a large extent nothing but a shrewdly devised tactic to hide official embarrassment at official deceit.

A colonel of the Ministry of Defence Directorate of Army Legal Services told me in a letter dated November 4, 1982, that it will be approved that the protocols are largely declaratory of existing international law already binding on states independently of ratification.

This is confirmed by the Law Notes of Sandhurst Royal Military Academy: "A distinction must be drawn between combatants and non-combatants... The former may be attacked, while the latter are protected from attack."

It is evident that our armed forces are more than willing to obey minimum laws of restraint, but have foisted on them a nuclear strategy of "population extermination" in gross violation of the law. This last quotation comes from a description of current British nuclear strategy by a vice-chairman of the Tory Party defence committee, Julian Critchley, MP (Guardian, March 5, 1984).

It is no wonder that this valuable protocol is flouted in the Iran/Iraq conflict when the nuclear powers degrade its meaning so wantonly.—Sincerely, George Deif, International Law Against War, 30 Gladstone Street, Bedford.

Sir,—A remarkable date in European history is approaching: the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Final Act of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation in Helsinki.

In the last week American ruling circles have done much to wreck the implementation of the Final Act which should have laid the foundations for peaceful co-existence.

The atmosphere in the session ticket area is generally so far removed from my personal experience that it makes me question the whole incidence of media activities on people's thinking.

Of course we must condemn the terrible things we have seen in Brussels, Luton and Birmingham, and be horrified by the tragedy at Bradford. But we must also remember our responsibilities to the "majority of spectators."

In nearly 20 years standing at Tottenham Hotspur, I have never once been punched, kicked, or spat at. The atmosphere in the session ticket area is generally

convivial, humorous, and entirely safe.

Soccer violence exists (for whatever reasons) and is a problem. But a preoccupation with violence where violence scarcely exists — ie, the vast majority of league grounds on a Saturday afternoon — backed by a series of draconian measures subjecting peaceful fans to random police searches and identity checks will turn away many more good than bad people from our football grounds.

—Yours faithfully, Simon Kanter, 134 Gordon Avenue, Stanmore, Middlesex.

### Miscellany at large

Sir,—Being a fast bowler myself and having suffered over the last 10 years torments of mediocre advice from the cricketing wise men, Henry Blofeld's report (Sports Guardian, July 25) is a little short-pitched.

David Lawrence is huge, brutally fast, and on the crest of a wave of success. He may have a lot to learn, but so did Dennis Lillee and Andy Roberts when they were 21. The wizened old cricketers know-alls have developed, in order to justify their own self importance I think, a supremely patronising encephalic tendency to crush youthful exuberance and talent into mediocrity.

This has resulted in the English fast-bowling attack being opened by men who couldn't scare the pigeons.

Lawrence and Thomas should consider the English attack that I can say with certainty: less certainly can I explain the reasons for Lawrence's omission R. A. Edgington, Birmingham.

Sir,—Mavis Henley (Letters, July 25) questions Ian Black's statement that the ancestors of today's Israelis would rather have died than eat

the flesh of the swine. But in 2 Maccabees, chapters 6 and 7, we have a vivid account of a number of Jews in the second century BC who preferred to die rather than eat pork. Both Judaism and Christianity have always regarded these people as martyrs, not suicides.—Yours J. R. Porter, University of Exeter.

Sir,—Your quartet of letters (July 24) about Ann Fowler's article does not mention the group of barristers in central London who specialise in tribunal representation, which they undertake for a fee. They do only this work, being excluded from ordinary courts. The Senate of the Inns of Court can put people in need in touch with them.

Many of the Citizens' Advice Bureaux keep lists of solicitors for those seeking legal aid for ordinary courts, but they are not lawyers. P. van Dam, Harrow-on-the-Hill.

Sir,—As a musicologist spending five months researching in an Eastern-bloc country, I attended that country's equivalent of a Prom. Half of the programme consisted of Soviet music, and the Soviet flag was placed above the platform.

I remarked to a native acquaintance that the people must resent the infiltration of such overt signs of Soviet presence into national culture. He was surprised that I needed to make this observation. "After all," he said, "your country is as much a colony of the United States as ours is of the Soviet Union."

Refuting this statement was more difficult than it at first appeared. I was forced to concede that we have no real control over American troops and missiles deposited here, and that our Prime Minister continues to fawn about President Reagan's antics, however many kicks in the teeth he receives. I was further forced to admit that our television is dominated by third-rate American programmes and that our news broadcasts are as full of non-

sense as the United States as his country's are of trivial items from Russia.

Clutching at straw, I protested that at least we were free of large quantities of transatlantic "culture" in most areas of our own cultural life.

Imagine my horror when I picked up a copy of the Proms prospectus soon after my return home. Not only is the American content of the season nauseatingly high, but the sacred Last Night will, God forbid, be infested by the sounds of The Stars and

Stripes for Ever. Do you suppose that we will also have American flags adorning the Albert Hall and that every one attending the concert will be issued with both American and British flags in advance, one for each hand.

Next time an Eastern-bloc acquaintance makes such a remark about Britain's status in relations to America, I shall have to keep my mouth shut.—Yours, Paul Wingfield, 221 King's College, Cambridge.

Sir,—The Belgrano affair dragged on, many felt that it had become a farce. But the startling report of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs (Guardian, July 25) shows that, on the contrary, it is a matter of profound national and international importance.

Consider the basic facts: Britain handled with casual and confused disdain the affairs of some remote and inhospitable islands, and thus encouraged a foolish dictator to chance his arm by occupying or—as he claimed—reoccupying them.

In a world full of desperate and urgent problems, the first thought of an enlightened British statesman would have been that so peripheral an affair should be handled by the United Nations which, indeed, showed every readiness to help.

But clearly Mrs Thatcher regarded the UN as an irrelevant, dispatched her Foreign Secretary to the United States to temporise, and seized with both hands the opportunity to demonstrate the military prowess of Britain and so revive ancient glories. The scheme succeeded brilliantly and won her a general election.

But what of the debt? The first human cost was the colonisation of Britain—had not declared war and no Britain had, at that stage been killed—of 383 Argentinians. They were sailing slowly home in an ancient warship which though in your columns, has never been applied to Ireland.

As for "the total disjunction of the two islands (being) a mistake in the first place," a view which for no clear reason you identify with the Alliance, the majority which disavowed Union with Britain in 1918 has shown very little inclination to change its mind since. It may be that their experience of British democracy until then had made them wary of "the majority which meets at Westminster."

Finally, does the principle of "majority rule" apply only to Westminster? Does British "democracy" like British "justice" have an exclusively English application, or upon what basis does it claim a more worldwide application?—Yours, Padraic Finn, London W8.

It is not surprising that Francis Pym is now Mrs Thatcher's foremost Conservative critic and that he and the other Tory MPs realise that Mrs Thatcher's fate may be sealed if the Government's cover-up cannot be maintained and since they refused to call her and Michael Heseltine to testify to them, there are many facts yet to be revealed.

Among the constitutional questions involved are whether Northwood withheld facts to mislead the War Cabinet; whether the banishment and emasculation of the foreign secretary could possibly be justified; and whether the Government's adamant refusal to hold an inquiry is an insult to the public and to Parliament.

Significantly, the publication of the report coincides with the beginning of the parliamentary recess.

The dismissive reference to the report in your Leader of July 25 is therefore deeply disappointing. Great issues are at stake and, if the United Nations had been enabled to negotiate a settlement of the Falklands dispute, the prospects for world peace would be vastly better than they are today.—Yours sincerely, Duncan Smith, 18 Victoria Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

use nuclear weapons first.

The US not only refuses to follow this example, but is openly preparing for war by adopting and promoting various doctrines for a nuclear "first-strike" and limited, protracted, and other war scenarios.

The Final Act also binds participating states to refrain from any act of economic coercion. The US has violated this commitment a number of times.

It is enough to recall the economic sanctions imposed by the US administration to disrupt a mutually advantageous "gas-for-pipes" deal. Indicatively, in this case West European capitals managed to uphold their interests despite pressure from the White House. But this does not mean an end to arbitrary actions by the US.

These facts demonstrate Washington's lack of respect for either the sovereignty of other countries or for its own commitments. It is thus not surprising that serious doubts about US trustworthiness.

Vladimir Katia, Novosti Press Agency, 4 Zubovskiy Boulevard, Moscow.

Sir,—Your Leader (July 24) about the US Strategic Defence Initiative is sensible, well-reasoned and, by that token, a part of nonsense because it takes nonsense seriously to compound it.

The arithmetic of SDI is nonsense. It treats as relative something that is absolute.

One modern missile with its 14 Hiroshima heads could wipe out two or three cities.

Sir,—I'm a football fan who lives in South-west London and supports Sunderland. I see them play five or six times a year, almost invariably away from home, and usually go to a couple of games between other teams to watch the football. I have never been involved in crowd trouble.

As I understand Mr Justice Poplewell's proposals on football safety, and violence, I would have to apply for a Sunderland membership card, thereby ensuring that I am not "away" supporter I would be virtually unable to see them play.

The answer is to get a card from my local team, Wimbledon, and then watch Sunderland when they play away from home as an apparent "neutral" supporter.

The prospect of many thousands of fans in the same position — the sort of fans the clubs want to encourage — having to do the same thing can't help either crowd control or revenue; and surely that isn't what the police intend.—Yours faithfully, Andrew Curry, 20 Strathleven Road, London SW2.

### Backing the minority majority

Sir,—Anthony Arblastor (Letters, July 24) draws attention to the peculiar definition of democracy which you call upon in a series of letters to the editors of the Spectator.

Somewhat similar flaws attend the previous day's discussion of Unionist reaction to the current round of London/Dublin talks.

Unionist objections to the sensible concessions being brewed by Mrs Thatcher and Dr Fitzgerald, accompanied as always by mutterings of civil war, are to be overridden in the interests of "political prudence" and the Westminster "majority."

It is tempting to inquire why this particular "majority" should be the determining one in relation to Irish affairs.

As has often been pointed out in these columns and elsewhere, the Unionists are not just a minority at Westminster; they are a minority in Ireland. The last all-Ireland election in 1918, anti-Unionist candidates gained an overwhelming majority.

In demographic terms, the Unionists had a majority in only three of the six northern counties. Nevertheless the principle of majority rule so lauded in your columns, has never been applied to Ireland.

As for "the total disjunction of the two islands (being) a mistake in the first place," a view which for no clear reason you identify with the Alliance, the majority which disavowed Union with Britain in 1918 has shown very little inclination to change its mind since. It may be that their experience of British democracy until then had made them wary of "the majority which meets at Westminster."

Finally, does the principle of "majority rule" apply only to Westminster? Does British "democracy" like British "justice" have an exclusively English application, or upon what basis does it claim a more worldwide application?—Yours, Padraic Finn, London W8.

It is not surprising that Francis Pym is now Mrs Thatcher's foremost Conservative critic and that he and the other Tory MPs realise that Mrs Thatcher's fate may be sealed if the Government's cover-up cannot be maintained and since they refused to call her and Michael Heseltine to testify to them, there are many facts yet to be revealed.

Among the constitutional questions involved are whether Northwood withheld facts to mislead the War Cabinet; whether the banishment and emasculation of the foreign secretary could possibly be justified; and whether the Government's adamant refusal to hold an inquiry is an insult to the public and to Parliament.

Significantly, the publication of the report coincides with the beginning of the parliamentary recess.

The dismissive reference to the report in your Leader of July 25 is therefore deeply disappointing. Great issues are at stake and, if the United Nations had been enabled to negotiate a settlement of the Falklands dispute, the prospects for world peace would be vastly better than they are today.—Yours sincerely, Duncan Smith, 18 Victoria Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

kill a few million people, and cripple a nation for decades. That is quite simply something which the human race must not think of giving or receiving.

So to be worth having, a "defence" against the thousands of missiles that might be sent would have to be absolutely effective. No technology can provide this.

To base the safety of the world on the often discredited and wholly unprovable claims of electronic engineers will not bring anybody a sense of security.

If SDI goes ahead it will be a great new source of terror in the world because, added to the continuing fear of the holocaust, will be the fear that one day the American Dreamer will believe their own bullshit.—Yours Oliver Postgate, Yours Honey Hill, Kent.

Sir,—Your Diary discusses (June 28) what it alleges to be an internal campaign strategy for marketing Star Wars to the American public and politician.

This "document" was not and is not an internal working document of the Heritage Foundation. The document was prepared by John Bosma as a suggested strategy and submitted to the High Frontier Organisation in Washington, DC. The Heritage Foundation had absolutely no relationship to this document either in its inception, production, or whatever reaction or implementation which may or may not have occurred.

W. Bruce Weinrod, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC.

An issue that can't be sunk

Sir,—As the Belgrano affair dragged on, many felt that it had become a farce. But the startling report of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs (Guardian, July 25) shows that, on the contrary, it is a matter of profound national and international importance.

Consider the basic facts: Britain handled with casual and confused disdain the affairs of some remote and inhospitable islands, and thus encouraged a foolish dictator to chance his arm by occupying or—as he claimed—reoccupying them.

In a world full of desperate and urgent problems, the first thought of an enlightened British statesman would have been that so peripheral an affair should be handled by the United Nations which, indeed, showed every readiness to help.

But clearly Mrs Thatcher regarded the UN as an irrelevant, dispatched her Foreign Secretary to the United States to temporise, and seized with both hands the opportunity to demonstrate the military prowess of Britain and so revive ancient glories. The scheme succeeded brilliantly and won her a general election.

But what of the debt? The first human cost was the colonisation of Britain—had not declared war and no Britain had, at that stage been killed—of 383 Argentinians. They were sailing slowly home in an ancient warship which though in your columns, has never been applied to Ireland.

As for "the total disjunction of the two islands (being) a mistake in the first place," a view which for no clear reason you identify with the Alliance, the majority which disavowed Union with Britain in 1918 has shown very little inclination to change its mind since. It may be that their experience of British democracy until then had made them wary of "the majority which meets at Westminster."

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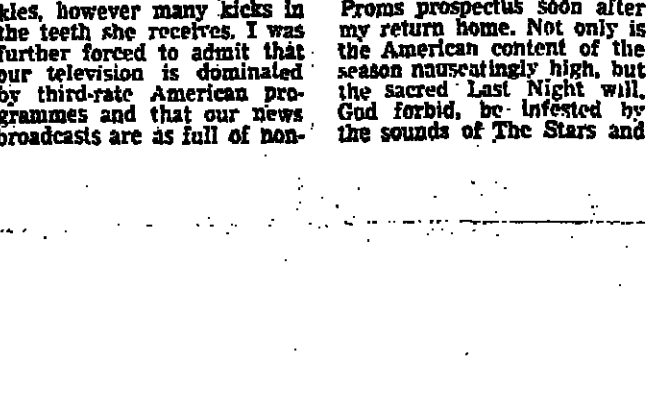
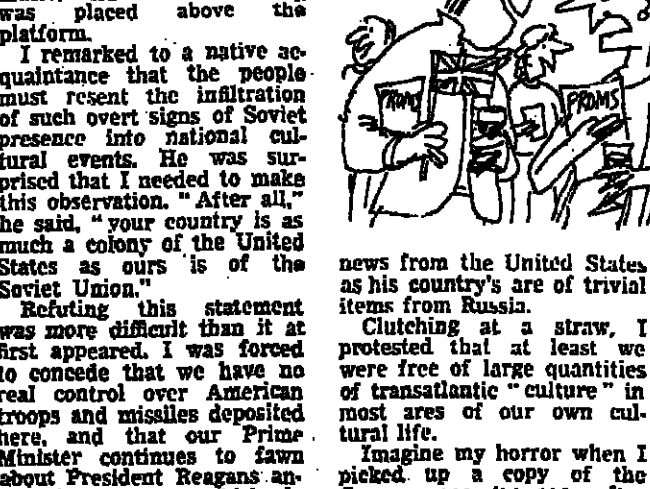
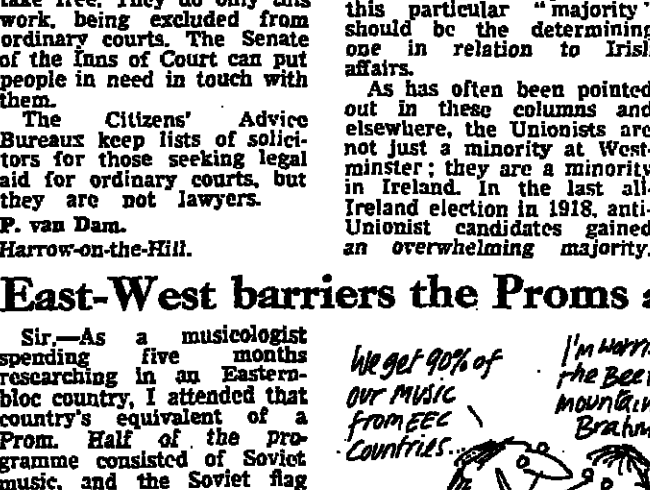
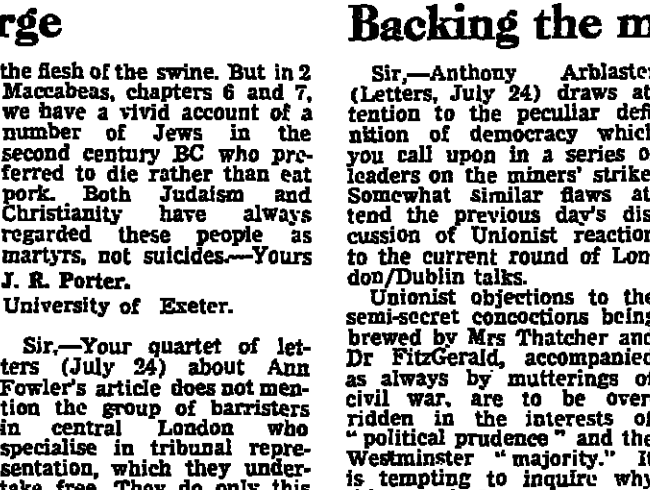
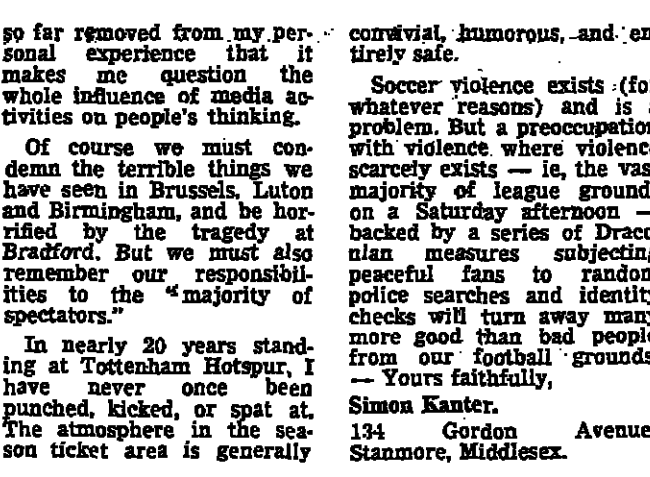
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# WEEKEND SPORT

John Rodda in Oslo looks forward to a midsummer night's Dream Mile at the Bislett Stadium

## Midnight express men

THE MAGIC of the mile has returned. The magnetism which drew Roger Bannister to Oxford 31 years ago, where he became the first man to run the distance in under four minutes, has drawn many of the world's outstanding middle distance runners to the Bislett Stadium, Oslo, where the ultimate prize tonight is to break the world record of 3min 47.33sec which Sebastian Coe achieved in Brussels four years ago.

Bannister, of course, ran before the days of participation money; yet he and those who planned the historic achievement, the McWhirter twins, Chris Brasher and Chris Chataway, knew the value of that victory. At Oxford there was one camera to record the

Sebastian Coe (GB)  
Steve Ovett (GB)  
Coe (GB)  
Ovett (GB)  
Coe (GB)  
Filbert Bayi (Tanzania)  
Jim Ryan (US)

3min47.33sec Brussels  
3min48.40sec Koblenz  
3min48.53sec Zurich  
3min48.80sec Oslo  
3min48.85sec Oslo  
3min49.00sec Kingston, Jam.  
3min51.16sec Bakersfield, Calif.

28 August 1981  
26 August 1981  
19 August 1981  
1 July 1980  
17 July 1979  
17 May 1975  
22 June 1967

run; tonight's exploits will be shown throughout Europe and by satellite in the US and New Zealand.

The race starts close to midnight because that fits in with the American TV networks' Saturday afternoon sports programme. For this inconvenience the Norwegian promoter has all the dollars — and sterling from BBC and ITV — to meet the most expensive race ever run.

"We said out the tickets months ago and now it has become an embarrassment — companies are wanting to bring their clients, VIPs are ringing me up, for suddenly we have a prestigious event with nowhere to put the people," says Arnie Hansen, the promoter, said yesterday.

That is not just the magic of the mile but the magnetism of Coe and Steve Cram who are the principals. One, the Olympic champion, against the man who followed him home in Los Angeles and who 11 days ago became world record holder at 1,500 metres. It may be dangerous to cast the rest as bit players but that is what Steve Scott of the US, Jose Luis Gonzalez of Spain, John Walker from New Zealand, Pierre Deleze of Switzerland and the rest are, unless the dream is disturbed by a tactical race.

The evidence points to the British pair heading the rest

down the long Bislett straight for the last time, with Cram more likely to win the further the time is below Coe's record. Cram has shown, by his race in Nice, that he has the strength and confidence. To attack at the bell and still have something left to hold off Said Aouita's surge in the last 20 metres stacked up his confidence; his 1000 metres in Edinburgh, breaking his UK all-comers' record on Tuesday with that spicy final 200 metres in 24.5sec, might be a defence against Coe's fifth gear.

John Walker, who began this European whirlwind of races back in the Seventies, believes that Nice and Edinburgh are the crucial factors in pointing to a victory for Cram, whereas Steve Ovett, the man sadly missing from the fray, believes that Coe has plotted the winning path to a midnight celebration. Winners like Coe and Ovett can be devious schemers; Coe clearly wanted to face Joaquim Cruz of Brazil, the Olympic 800 metres champion, last weekend in London, and blast him away with the fastest 800 metres in the world this year.

This was a plan to undermine Cruz's confidence for tonight's contest. As events turned out Cruz declined to face Coe at such short notice and was, wholly

unjustifiably, pitched out of tonight's field.

Omar Khalifa of the Sudan, once a student at Loughborough and now, when he is at home, a tank commander, is the man who will be mostly in your picture tonight. The pacemaker who took Cram through to the final lap in Nice has been engaged for the role again. That must be welcomed by Cram who knows that he cannot cope with Coe's 800 metres speed if the race were to unfold outside the existing world record schedule.

Cram, too, might be into a decline after his Nice achievement and of course Coe does not yet have substantial evidence over a mile or 1500 metres this season. But these are the imponderables which of course might just let in Gonzalez, who achieved a personal best in the Nice race. The focus, though, is sharply on Coe and Cram. The former said of his record "It's as soft as a three-minute egg"; the question is will 3min 45sec be too hard?

Aouita is disappointed at missing such a competitive race but he is committed to the 5,000 metres which ought to bring a world record as well.

He ran the distance here in June and that unusual phenomenon for an Oslo

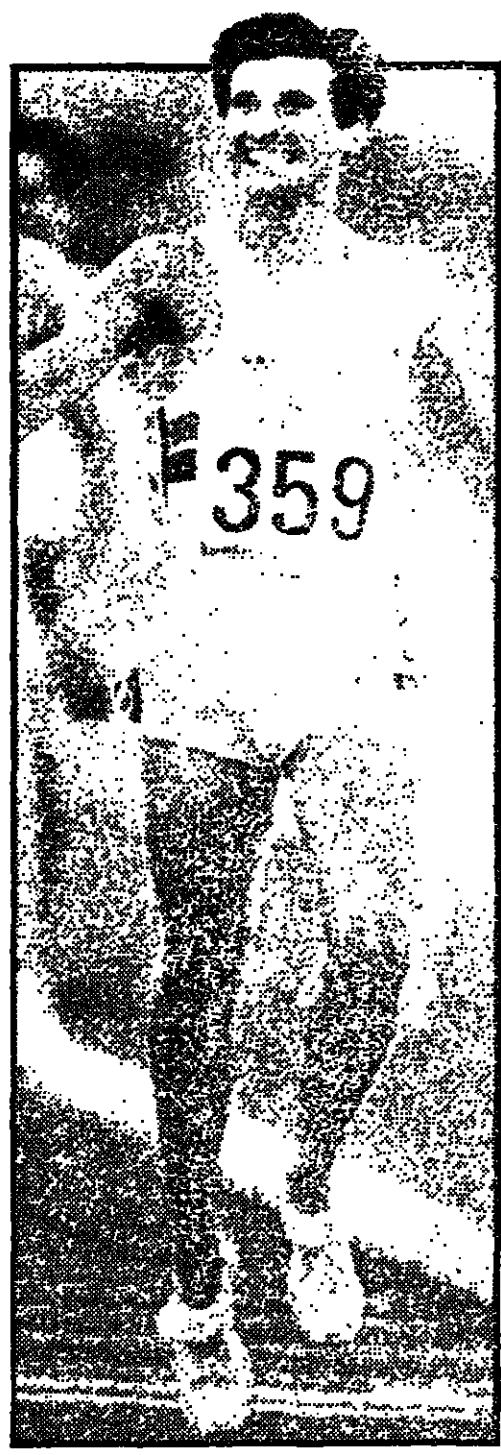
meeting, a sharp downpour of rain, restricted his talent to 13min 45sec. This time the field is of higher quality with Sydney Maree of the US (13min 17sec), Alberto Cova of Italy, the Olympic 10,000 metres champion (13min 13sec), and John Treacy of the Republic of Ireland (13min 18sec) in the field.

Mary Slaney, after that fairly simple victory in London last week, runs the mile where she has a best time of 4min 18.08sec of three years standing. Since then she has improved vastly at other distances and must therefore be within range of the world record, 4min 15.8sec, standing to Natalya Antimova of the Soviet Union.

SEBASTIAN COE (Right): The world first took notice six years ago when he set three world records in 41 days, one of which was a world mile time of 3 min 48.95 sec. Tactically he was a suspect runner and suffered acute embarrassment in losing the 800 metres final in the 1980 Olympics (to Ovett), and then dragged himself back from the dead by winning the 1,500 metres beating Ovett). At the mile and 1,500 metres he had a seven-year winning stretch from 1976 and is still holder of the world record for 800 metres, 1,000 metres, and one mile. He has maintained his position in spite of twice suffering from the lymphatic form of acquired toxoplasmosis, a disease which halted his running in 1982 and 1983. In spite of that he returned to the sport and became the first man in history to retain the Olympic 1500 metres title.



STEVE CRAM (Left): The path to glory began at the Bislett Stadium, Oslo, five years ago with a minor place in a mile which, because he finished ahead of Graham Williamson, gave him the remaining position in Britain's 1,500 metres team at the Moscow Games. From that position he had the privilege and value of watching how Coe and Ovett did it. He graduated in the European Championships and Commonwealth Games (from which Coe and Ovett were absent) and in 1983 took the world title defeating a less-than 100 per cent Ovett. He beat him once more at the end of the season in a memorable contest over one mile. He finished second to Coe in the Olympic 1,500 metres final but won the race to the first sub 3 min. 30 sec. performance.



## England should bite bullet

PETER MAY, having yesterday chaired the selection meeting which picks the England side for the fourth Test, drives to Bristol this morning to see what the tyro fast bowlers — David Lawrence of Gloucester and Greg Thomas of Glamorgan — are made of. It is a token journey for May: whatever happens today will make not the slightest difference to the list in his pocket of those to be summoned to Old Trafford which will be announced, as is the custom, tomorrow morning.

I fancy the two broad shouldered men have no hope of a game until at least the sixth Test, when the series could have been decided — though with England's recent selectorial eccentricities over opening bowlers, I suppose anything could happen.

It would add to the gaiety of the nation and lighten this dull summer if Lawrence or Thomas were pitched in now: these Australians need a few whistling round their ears. The tourists' batting order, their captain apart, has nothing much to offer and in the winter the West Indies will not be the place for trainee fast bowlers.

Another selector, Alec Bedser, was at Bristol on Thursday to look at Lawrence and Thomas. The old boy's looks said it all. Another wasted journey. Another flash in the pan. "I dunno, the state of the game these days..." You would think the way he goes on about current cricketers that Alec's own apprenticeship was one of unending years of Dickensian toil and graft. In fact Bedser learned his first-class cricket simply by playing Test matches: in 1939 he had one

Frank Keating argues that the tyro pacemakers are as ready for Test cricket as they ever will be

game for Surrey: when cricket resumed in 1946 he played five weeks' first class cricket before being chosen for the first Test against India. He took eleven wickets and was on his way.

It seems you have to take a deep breath and pick a likely pacemaker. For instance, Lindsey opened the bowling for Australia after only a dozen first class matches. Lawrence and Thomas have both played more first class games than Trueman when he was first capped. Sebastian had played only 14 county games when England summoned him to Australia; a year later, Tyson won a series after serving only an 11 match county apprenticeship.

Likewise Willis; at Surrey he had taken 45 wickets in 16 matches when he answered the call from England. Lawrence's 63 wickets in 14 matches this summer handsomely put that in its place. It would be sad if Lawrence and Thomas were allowed to blow themselves out on the country grind. Gales by their nature do run out of violence.

Lawrence is 21, long legged, 6ft 3in, 15 stone and with shoulders wide as a bullock. You can hear him coming from a long way off on his great big Cornish pasty boots — 20 paces at an excitable pace, barrel chested, his left hand stiff keeping the gale on steady as he goes like a keel: all legs and shoulders though the propulsion comes still from

his arm and he is not totally certain of when exactly to let go of the ball, which might make for some inaccuracy but, at 22 yards, can be very disconcerting for the recipient.

Thomas, four years older, at 6 foot 2 in and 14 stone with more of a measured athlete's tread, has a high-stepping gallop like he is still breaking tackles for the Cymru school XV where he was a rampaging No.3 forward.

I am always surprised the old boys' network that make up selection panels so seldom co-opt — or even talk to — first class umpires. They know the lot, day in day out. In the spring, I chatted with Arthur Jepson, long time umpire after a career that started at Trent Bridge partnering Larwood, Butler and Voce.

"There is a boy down at Glamorgan you should go and have a look at," said Arthur, matter of fact, who is faster than the lot of them though I dare say the selectors don't know it yet. Last season, Thomas took 47 wickets and Lawrence 41. This summer, to date, Thomas has taken 40 to Lawrence's outstanding 63. Both have a very good strike rate against the top of the opposition batting order. If the engaging Welsh speaking Thomas — a qualified school teacher in maths and science — was picked for England he says cheerily he would "consider myself a representative of a minority of the

population." Lawrence's parents arrived from Jamaica in the 1950s and the boy, born and bred in Gloucester, says: "Of course it's England for me."

But before David, the most celebrated son of the city's Linden school, there was another cricketing folk hero from the Cathedral shadow of Bomber Walls. Both of them learnt to bowl over arm with a tennis ball in the school playground — though the similarity ends when you lovingly recall Bomber's famous one-pace run-up. Lawrence bears a striking facial and physical resemblance to the boxer Frank Bruno — indeed if Peter May does not sign him up soon, then Frank Warren could well do worse.

As Fleet Street and the TV men pursued Lawrence all week the young man was so obviously enjoying the attention that his captain and the Gloucester officials were noticeably worried about the effect it might have on their young prospect. On Tuesday he was sent home to play his jazz and funk records and stay clear of the lights.

He had said nothing that wasn't direct. "If the selectors think I'm ready and able they will pick me: if they don't they won't." You cannot say fairer than that. He is learning fast, and about more than fast bowling. In the 1984 cricketers' Who's Who he is, touchingly, the only player in 240 entries to list his address and telephone number — 76 Howard Street, Glos. 22776. In the 1985 edition the budding super star has deleted that — though the entry on his Cricketers' Heroes still lists Michael Holding, the purring Jamaican tiger.

The racing set sail next week for the greatest show on water. Bob Fisher looks at a leading home hope and sets the scene as an armada gathers for Cowes Week and the classic series



CUDMORE: Mixed fortunes this season

## Novel style of cap'n Cudmore

HAROLD CUDMORE is a sailor's sailor. He is the dedicated skipper who thinks, eats and sleeps sailing yet is uncharacteristically erudite. Uncharacteristic that is, for the average full-time racing sailor, but not for an Irishman, which is where Cudmore's roots are set.

If indeed he has roots, for his peripatetic existence is one which stocks even his most travelled competitors. Wherever the big race series is held, Cudmore is there and it is his boast that his greatest worry is that there will be too many events for him to cope. He mingles his great love of match racing — he is the nominated skipper for the Royal Thames Yacht Club challenge for the America's Cup in 1987 — with ocean racing.

Cudmore now admits that he does not find the long offshore races as exciting or as pleasurable as he did. He once skippered the Agulhas Race, from Cape Town, largely from his bunk while he read a novel — and his best novel was *Robinson Crusoe*. He will not find his job as skipper of Lloyd Bankson's and Graham Walker's Phoenix in the Admiral's Cup such a sinecure.

The 1985 season has not been all that he could ask. Cudmore did win the Royal Lymington Cup for the British match racing championship for the sixth time, but things did not go well as he began the British Admiral's Cup trials with Walker's Indulgence.

In the first race of the trials Indulgence struck a wreck off Bembridge Ledge and sank. The boat was a write-off and Cudmore in the doldrums. The morning after the sinking he remarked: "I had a bad dream last night — unfortunately it was real!"

Walker realised that Cudmore had a highly talented group of sailors around him and negotiated ownership of Phoenix with Bankson so that the crew might have a shot at the Admiral's Cup. Since it is one of the honours which has so far eluded Cudmore, the investment may well be rewarded: Cudmore has led a new upsurge of performance with the boat to make the British team.

For the past week he has been acting as tactician aboard Simon le Bon's Drum in the Seahorse Maxi Series. It is a role he enjoys aboard these 50-foot maxis: "As long as there are people around with toys for me to play with, I shall be happy," he once told me. For Cudmore the bigger the toys the better he likes it, but all the more so the more important the regatta, the stronger he becomes.

He needs, right now, a good result in the Admiral's Cup to confirm his credibility for other events, not least among them that challenge in Australia in 1987. That is what will drive Cudmore to excel in the five races in the next two weeks.

## Admiral's Cup rules the waves

ALL OVER the world there are events for ocean racing boats built to a complex handicap rule but none of them crystallises the efforts of all concerned quite like the Admiral's Cup. Every two years the five-race series, which is based at Cowes, is the focus of attention for sailors, designers, builders and the suppliers of equipment. There is no event anywhere else which commands this amount of universal attention.

It is perhaps because the Admiral's Cup was the first series of its type, devised in the mid-50s to attract foreign entries to Cowes Week. Its progenitors were five of the senior members of the Royal Ocean Racing Club, led by their Admiral, Sir Myles Wyatt. They felt that by organising a series of races which then began with the Channel Race, one of the RORC's 230-milers, and took in two of Cowes Week's day races before concluding with the classic 605-mile Fastnet, other ocean racing countries might consider sending teams of three boats to compete.

How right they were, although it took another decade for the Admiral's Cup to reach anywhere near the proportion of the event which starts on Wednesday. By 1971 there were 19 teams competing, the same number as were entered this year until Spain withdrew at the last moment. The event has grown, and changed, as the years have passed and whether it has yet stabilised for long is doubtful.

What it has done is create a type of boat — an Admiral's Cupper — which is used in other events around the world and for which there is now a world championship which uses the best performance in five of these, culminating with the Admiral's Cup or now, in deference to the sponsors, the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup.

An Admiral's Cup boat is between 39 and 51 feet long; more strictly it races from a series of measurements of the boat and its rig which are the ingredients of the formula of the IOR rule. From it each yacht's handicap is assessed and the boat issued with a time correction factor with which its elapsed time for every race is multi-

plied to give its corrected time.

In the last three Admiral's Cups the top individual scoring boats have had ratings of 30.1, 30.2, and 30.5 foot. No boat has ever exceeded the 30.5 foot at Poole earlier this month has led to 31 of the 54 boats measuring for a rating of 30.5 or less.

Some teams are composed entirely of One Tonners, among them Great Britain. Putting all one's eggs into one basket does expose the opposite flank but all the indications are that the close racing which these boats have had has caused them further to develop them further than those with bigger boats.

One of the original concepts of the Admiral's Cup has been a trifle lost — that

of attracting foreign entries to Cowes Week by including two of that regatta's races in the programme. Now there are two inshore races in the event, each of around 30 miles, before the Week begins and a third inshore race during the Week is held around an Olympic-style course in Christchurch Bay. The Channel Race and the Fastnet remain as the cornerstones of the series.

The Admiral's Cup is the "big one" and on eight of the 14 occasions that it has been held, the home team has won. Last time, however, Britain had her worst ever result and since, in the other major series, the results have been similar.

Germany, who won in 1983, also won the Sardinia Cup. On that sort of form they should win again, particularly as a new wave of boats has displaced the Sardinia Cup winners from their team, but the Admiral's Cup is no respecter of form.

It is a challenging series of races which demands all the skill of yacht racing. Two of the races are in some of the most tricky tidal waters imaginable — to some of the most tricky tidal waters in the world. The Admiral's Cup is a charm and character all of its own. To those who seek change, the argument is that the Grand National would be a fairer race on a flat course but it wouldn't be the Grand National.



FAST LEARNERS: Thomas (left) and Lawrence are unlikely to be pitched in at Old Trafford















behind

# DIARY

NICE to report that while Neil Kinnock has been at it in East Africa this week he was only able to do so because of an elaborate piece of ingenuity by a British multi-national. The Kinnocks had to fly from Dar es Salaam in a twin-engineered Otter to Mbeia. Then the Otter had to get him and his press party to Morogoro in central Tanzania and from there back to Dar. But engine fuel is so scarce in Tanzania that there was none available at the up-country airstrips. So BP came to the rescue, sending eight drums of fuel by lorry two days in advance down the 600-mile road to Mbeia, with a further consignment to Morogoro. A BP technician, armed only with a hand pump, had to fly with the Kinnocks' plane. While the Labour leader carried out his engagements, the intrepid BP man quietly pumped the precious fuel into the plane's tank so that Kinnock could make his next hop.

And a Kinnock joke. At a farewell dinner in Tanzania, Our Man in Dar, John Sankey, proposed three toasts: to President Nyerere, to the Queen, and to the departing Kinnocks. Quick as a flash, the Welsh Wizard replied: "That's what I like about civil servants. Even when proposing toasts, they have to do everything in triplicate."

THAT most reputable of charities in mental health, MIND, is hoping that it hasn't got itself into a financial mess with its recent world conference. At one stage projections showed a loss of between £15,000 and £30,000. Director Chris Beggsbotham says the shortfall is more likely to be £5,000. But sceptics reckon there were too few delegates and too much razzmatazz at the Brighton splash. Meanwhile, the bills are still coming in.

FRANCES Morrell's chance to sit on Labour's NEC have been stymied by another minority which feels hard done by in the party — says, ILGA leader Morrell was hoping to go to the annual conference to debate the issue of homosexuals' rights. Morrell is feeling hard done by since last year she got about two million votes and just missed an NEC place. The irony is that WAC has been advising the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights about tactics to get conference recognition.

TO GIVE its bare-all pictures a bit of class, the desperate Mirror is getting mega-writer Paul Cullen to pen a few "appropriate words". Mirror hacks call them titillating captions; but Cullen says he was persuaded by the observation from editor Mike Molloy that Ogden Nash once wrote advertising copy for Hershey Bars. Nash never worked for Maxwell, though.

ALL but one of 30 recent planning applications by McDonalds have encountered objections from Conservative councils — according to New Society magazine. The hamburger chain confirms this trend, and means that every time a site is allowed to open, 60 potential jobs are lost, so what are the Tories up to? Surely they can't object to Gross-Mac's scheme to turn Britain into a fast-food colony of the US?

IF you stayed in the Civil Service till Kingdom Come, you wouldn't be earning £75,000 a year. But Robert Armstrong, head of the Home Civil Service, on the BBC Radio programme Analysis, February 13, 1985. Hip! Hip!

THE more they go on unrolling the concrete at the Falklands airport, the longer the 2,000 British construction workers stay out of the home dole queue. Unemployment there's no Robert Armstrong, on the BBC Radio programme Analysis, February 13, 1985. Hip! Hip!

John Cunningham

THIS WEEKEND, in cautious but not unhelpful spirit, the Labour movement celebrates a victory. On July 26, 1945, politicians, press and general public alike blinked in disbelief at the results of the first national poll for a decade were announced. They've elected a Labour Government, gasped a lady diner at the Savoy, "and the country will never stand for it."

The same afternoon a middle-aged gentleman with a comfortable private income, a deep devotion to his public school, and a passionate interest in cricket scores, became Prime Minister. "Quite an exciting day," he recorded. It was the start of the only Labour period of office (there have been five in all) which many or any of the contemporary Left would seriously consider as a model for a future one.

Fortieth birthdays are sobering. They can also be salutary. In the bitter aftermath of the Attlee administration, the fashionable question was "Where did it all go wrong?" Today, looking back across the wilderness of a generation, it seems more appropriate to ask, "How did it all go so marvellously, wonderfully right?"

There is a problem of definitions. Crucial issues of the Attlee era are at stake: to some, there is a kind of blasphemy in applying the word "socialism" to the post-war reforms. The theoretician Ralph Miliband, for example, writes in Capitalist Democracy in Britain (Oxford 1982) that civil servants in Britain have never had to confront a government with a "socialist programme," while the historian Gareth Stedman Jones places the policies of the period dismissively in a heritage of "pre-1914 progressive liberalism." That is as may be. Given, however, the record of the intervening years, to do even half as well in (say) 1983-85 would be a triumph.

For those, therefore, who have not abandoned altogether the pursuit of parliamentary socialism (or, perhaps, those who are not too concerned with labels), it is worth considering how the relative success of the post-war Labour Government came about.

First, what did it actually achieve? The most creative policies (and this is a lesson in itself) were well advanced even before the first Attlee administration reached mid-term. By 1948, the Government had provided the Beveridge-based legislation on social security that laid the basis of the modern welfare state.

It had passed major National Insurance and Industrial Injuries Acts, and the National Health Act, upon which the Health Service was established. Tax changes had significantly, if temporarily, bitten into the relative privileges of the rich. The Bank of England, coal, civil aviation, electricity and the railways had been brought into public ownership; iron and steel were (briefly) to follow. While, abroad, a massive and unprecedented process of decolonisation had begun.

All this was against a background of privation and acute financial danger. Earlier and subsequent Labour governments, apologising for failure, have blamed the balance of payments, world forces. None faced external pressure as severe as that of 1945-51. Successive crises — over the sudden ending of Lend-Lease (1945), devolution (1949), the implications of rearmament (1951) — threatened to make all reform impossible, and much worse.

Never has there been so little room for manoeuvre. Douglas Jay, a Treasury minister from 1947, put it well. The position of Attlee, he suggested, was more that of a cornered animal or a climber on a rock face than of a general able to order his troops wherever he wished.

The underlying problem was the transformation of Britain from a creditor to a debtor nation, with no compensating shift in expectations about its world role. Before the First World War, overseas assets had been virtually equal to total domestic wealth. By the end of the Second, net overseas assets had become a minus figure. Yet Britain was left with huge military commitments overseas.

The great anxiety was lest national bankruptcy should lead to economic collapse



Lord Buckhurst trying to entice the people of Bethnal Green (above); the late Richard Crossman surprising a voter with his vision of socialism (right); Betin listening to Attlee at Labour's victory rally

BEN PIMLOTT on the legacy of Attlee

## The road from 1945



and a return of mass unemployment: after the First World War had rapidly been followed by slump, and many feared a repetition of Labour's post-1945 financial policies (cheap money in particular) were controversial, arousing strong opposition in the City. But full employment was maintained and, except in the bad winter of 1947, joblessness was kept lower than at any time between 1918 and 1940.

This brief summary does not take account of mistakes or failures, especially in foreign and colonial affairs. Domestically, however, even those on the Left who point to the lack of workers' control in the Morrisonian public corporations and the absence of any "shift in power between classes", cannot dispute that a new political, administrative and economic system emerged; or that by the end of the 1940s there had developed a society with very different values and assumptions than would have prevailed if the electors had given Churchill a khaki victory.

So much for the record. What of the possibility of emulation, should Labour once again take office, facing problems at home which, though different — are certainly no less intractable here, there are difficulties.

A large part of Labour's task in 1945 was to reverse policies initiated to meet the needs of war. As historians like Paul Addison, Arthur Marwick and Kenneth Morgan have shown, much of Labour's post-war achievement may be seen as an outgrowth of wartime expediency: to put it slightly differently, the threat of invasion had laid the ghost of laissez-faire; Labour kept it firmly bound. A new study by Sir Alec Cairncross, Years of Recovery 1946-51 (Methuen) underlines the point.

What the Attlee administration really provided was not so much radical innovation, as radical continuity. Instead of dismantling wartime controls as happened after 1918, the Attlee Government kept them. Instead of removing wartime direction of industry, Labour nationalised its predecessor's rentiers and high salary earners their pre-war incomes. Labour retained the steeply progressive wartime system of taxation. Finally, the new Labour administration took seriously not only the Beveridge Report but also the 1944 full employment White Paper, resisting deflation (often against official advice) and pursuing a successful policy, also pioneered during the war, of relocating industry to the traditionally depressed areas.

It will not be the same for Kinnock in the late 1980s. A post-Thatcher government, unlike a post-war government, will need to throw the policies of its predecessor sharply into reverse. Nevertheless, the contrast may not be as great as at first appears. What the 1945 Government provided, the key ingredient, was leadership, a sense of the direction in which it wanted to travel. This, perhaps, is the sharpest difference from Labour in the sixties and seventies. Yet all governments in 1945 no less than in 1985 or 1988, face the same human instruments in Whitehall, with the same instincts towards caution and the avoidance of risk.

How to handle the civil service machine, and prevent it from assuming benevolent, fatherly command? That will be as much a problem for Neil as for Clem. Here, those who believe that the only way forward is to bind would-be Cabinet Ministers to a detailed set of commitments, as to a marriage contract, should take note of the

Attlee administration's strange pre-history. Some contemporary socialists have a vision of the democratically created master plan, unfolded in Downing Street on the morning of victory as a blueprint for the architects of the new state. In 1945, the reality was very different. The Labour Party, at all levels, was buzzing with ideas, and there was much serious talk about planning.

But the newly-appointed Cabinet had no plan. This was partly because nobody could agree what "planning" really was, or ought to be. And partly because nobody had seriously considered the election of a Labour government, written with an eye not to victory but to defeat.

The problem as Labour leaders had seen it was not how to win the election — what chance was there of beating a popular Prime Minister who had just won the war? But how to restore a measure of Labour influence after the election was over. Since 1940, the Labour Party had been able to play a key part in shaping social decisions. There was regret at losing this influence, and a desire, if possible, to regain it.

Meanwhile there were many Tories anxious about the troubled times they saw ahead, who liked the idea of a Labour government, but who remained at the back of the minds of Labour leaders right up to the announcement of the election result.

The coalitionist views of many Labour politicians provided the background to Labour's programme, which was composed in its entirety while the wartime Coalition was still actively in existence. For some time, Labour official statements had placed right on the pavement's edge) were so warped and cracked that the political postman had to choose which, of several apertures, he would use as the route his tract would travel from carefully folded bundle to coconut mat.

The combination of cracks in the woodwork, and the convenient location of the rows of little front doors, made our work so easy that we had exhausted our supply of leaflets long before the appointed hour at which we all returned to the Committee Room in order to confirm our prejudices about the excellence of our Leader and the innate inequity of our opponents. So — living out our lives as forerunners of the Hovis television advertisements — we despatched a messenger on an errand boy's bicycle. He returned with the basket which hung from its handle bars, filled with a brand new pamphlet, ready folded for convenient pushing through the gap below the doors through which the draughts

far and "progressive" Tories like Quintin Hogg in other) was for an election in which "Government" candidates from different parties would oppose each other in most constituencies, varying their emphasis on an identical programme. "Tory and Socialist candidates would all support the Government," suggested one Conservative backbencher, "but the Tories would chide the Socialists with having voted against arms before the war, and Socialists would chide Tories as having been men of Munich." Ministers, on the other hand, would be returned unopposed, and abstain from speaking. After this charade had taken place, a new Coalition would be formed, once again under Churchill's premiership.

But the rank and file were not easily taken in, and during the autumn of 1944 the Labour National Executive felt obliged to declare that the party would fight the election on its own. Leaders in both parties had to think again. There remained a slender chance. If Labour and the Tories could not actually go into the election in harness, Labour might still be invited to join a new Coalition as soon as battle wounds had healed.

For this to happen, however, it would be best, as Dalton put it in his diary, shortly after D-Day, if "we could separate from the Tories without too fierce a quarrel." This option was never formally considered, but it remained at the back of the minds of Labour leaders right up to the announcement of the election result.

Mr Ballard grabbed my wrist and shook some of the leaflets back into the cycle basket. With what even I recognised as disdain, he removed the rubber band from around the bundle and slowly opened out the two-page pamphlet. It was designed in the form of a strip cartoon and its subject was Jane — the forces' favourite from the wartime Mirror who possessed an extraordinary facility for catching her dress on nails, climbing fences, tripping over banana skins and suffering various other misadventures which resulted in the exposure of the three inches of thigh Mr Ballard's pink comfortable face was creased with the agony which comes from having to decide between moral principle and political expediency. Thighs were not

had a dual purpose — as much diplomatic counters in the internal politics of the government, indicating the demands of the Coalition's minority wing, as genuine declarations of intent for an improbable alternative administration. This was even more the case in the run-up to the election. Indeed it is plausible to see Labour's manifesto Let Us Face the Future not as a set of promises for a government which nobody expected, but as part of a strategy for joining the government which everybody assumed would be formed.

This was the context in which Labour won a victory which established the most radical administration since the coming of parliamentary democracy. But it is not the whole story. The 1945 election programme was not simply a product of wheeler-dealing in the Cabinet and National Executive. It was the result of the break-up of the Coalition. The apparent irony of a tactically moderate election platform prefiguring a revolutionary government is explained by what had gone before.

The 1945 Labour Government may have been a development of wartime conditions, and of the wartime experience of controlling the economy. The surprise election result which brought it to power may have had more to do with popular enthusiasm for the Liberal-inspired Beveridge Report and fear of a return to pre-war dole queues than with Labour's positive proposals. The reforms that followed may even have been, in one sense, the last flowering of late Victorian liberal philanthropy: to use Stedman Jones's memorable phrase.

But they were also the first, most brilliant bloom of post-Edwardian Fabianism, a species quite distinct from its Webbsian ancestor. The

story of the New Fabian Research Bureau, founded in 1931 by G. D. H. Cole, and of other groups like the City-based XYZ Club, which fed ideas to the Labour Party in prosaic and unglamorous. It is a story of discussion circles and seminars, of sub-committees and learned articles; a story of restless young men and a few women — sheltered from the realities of coal-mines and racism rejecting Beatrice Webb's impatience with "abstract economies" and carving out the framework of a new economic order. While others of their class during the pre-war Bed Decade were getting killed in Spain or going down and out, New Fabians were sitting in their common rooms working with the Keynesian multiplier.

Unnumerable research papers and a series of books — Barbara Wootton's Plan or No Plan (1934), Dalton's Practical Socialism for Britain (1935), Jay's The Socialist Case (1937), Durbin's The Politics of Democratic Socialism (1940) — were the result. None was a bestseller. Few potential Labour voters were even aware of their existence. Little of this writing, in itself, was sharply original. What it did do, however, was to refine for practical use the most advanced thinking in the rapidly changing fields of sociology and especially economics.

The impact — direct or indirect — of what they wrote was slow, gradual and hard to quantify. But it was undoubtedly enormous, affecting not only the content of Labour Party documents, but also the way in which politicians thought about policy, and the way in which Labour was viewed in Fleet Street and, crucially, in Whitehall. It was not a matter of appearing less "extreme." In many ways Labour seemed much more extreme. It was a matter of becoming the party of ideas, as opposed to simply the party of class and emotion.

There were other bases to the so-called "post-war consensus" that had already taken grip by the time Labour came to power. But in economic policy, Labour's confident sense of guiding opinion, instead of following meekly in its wake, owed much to this earlier work and to the Keynesian socialist synthesis which was to become the dominant ethic of the new administration. The justifiable feeling of intellectual superiority thus engendered in the thirties and early forties was sufficiently powerful to set Labour through until 1964. Only then was it eroded, and replaced with a still prevailing sense of intellectual embarrassment.

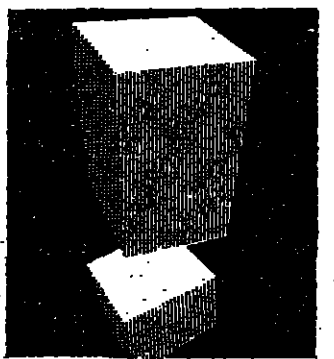
Here there is indeed a contemporary parallel. The Thatcher Government owes its electoral success and also its perverse triumphs in office not just to the disarray of its opponents but also to the ferment of activity on the free market Right that preceded the 1979 election. When hyperinflation and its dismal sequel seemed to displace the dominant ethic of the new administration, a freshly equipped Conservatism was able to fill the space and fashion a new, media-inspiring orthodoxy.

The secret of Thatcher's radical success during her first term, often against a hesitant and reluctant civil service, was not, as the manifesto, nor even the commentator's cliché, "political will." Will, to be effective, must have substance. The Conservatives were building on a structure of ideas which had begun to shift the conventional wisdom (and Treasury opinion) even before they came to power. Much of this was the work of Labour in 1945.

Today the Thatcher edifice is crumbling. What is there instead? On the Left, there is fragile unity, and mid-term electoral advance.

It is not yet clear that there is much else. Labour may have a chance of election. But if it intends to be unashamed of what follows, it must set about — not decorating, as Tawney once put it, a Christmas tree, with the nation's imagination.

Ben Pimlott is the editor of *Second World War Diary of Hugh Dalton*, to be published by Jonathan Cape in November. His biography of Dalton was published, also by Cape, earlier this year.



## ENDPIECE

Roy Hattersley

FORTY years ago this week, I said a not very reluctant farewell to Wisewood School, for a single term in order that I might qualify for

entry into "the tech" — and institution that hovered in the Sheffield academic hierarchy somewhere between the grammar schools and the secondaries, which had then not quite become modern. Within a few days of my arrival at Wisewood, a big buff envelope fell through our letter box. We did not need to open it to realise that it meant that I had "passed" the eleven-plus. The eleven weeks in the strange new world of Wisewood had been wholly unnecessary.

I remember going from class room to class room in the company of boys I hardly knew, saying goodbye to teachers I had only just met. We were all jubilant leavers on our way to grammar schools or the half world of the Junior Technical School. One of us — as I recall, the single member of our company who wore long trousers — had a picture of Dorothy Lamour in his inside pocket. She was dressed in a sarong — a garment so discreetly exten-

sive that today she could wear with impunity at a Buckingham Palace garden party. But the young man who owned the top-eared photograph flashed it in and out of his pocket as if he were in the back streets of Port Said.

I think that I can recall the name of each of the little boys who went on that tour of triumph four decades ago. And I could certainly draw a diagram of Wisewood School's two storey red brick layout. It was a ruin of Sheffield's open air period of academic architecture with corridors which were, in fact, verandas built along the side of class room wings. They were left open to the Pennine foothill winds for a couple of years. Then they were closed in and bricked up to avoid them being blocked by snow drifts at the beginning of the winter term. I can remember the smell of those corridors — school dinners mixed with exercise books and boys. But I cannot remember anything that went on outside

school that week. Yet, that was the week of the Attlee Labour government. The Hattersleys must have been racing from door to door enjoying and rejoicing. It was Socialism in our time. Soon we would become part owners of the coalmines and the railways. There was to be a free health service and a free India. Bliss must have been to be a can-vasser. And to have been a young leaflet delivery boy should have been absolute heaven. Perhaps it was. I cannot remember a single political fact from the most important political week in the history of the Labour Party.

I can remember incidents along the road to glory with perfect clarity. One evening stands out in particular sharp focus. We were delivering leaflets in Shalesmoor, a little huddle of condemned houses which were stretched out in black terraces on the side of a hill above the River Don. Such houses did not boast letter boxes. But their front doors (conveniently

placed right on the pavement's edge) were so warped and cracked that the political postman had to choose which, of several apertures, he would use as the route his tract would travel from carefully folded bundle to coconut mat.

The combination of cracks in the woodwork, and the convenient location of the rows of little front doors, made our work so easy that we had exhausted our supply of leaflets long before the appointed hour at which we all returned to the Committee Room in order to confirm our prejudices about the excellence of our Leader and the innate inequity of our opponents. So — living out our lives as forerunners of the Hovis television advertisements — we despatched a messenger on an errand boy's bicycle. He returned with the basket which hung from its handle bars, filled with a brand new pamphlet, ready folded for convenient pushing through the gap below the doors through which the draughts

blew in. Such was my enthusiasm that I actually grabbed a handful before Alderman Albert Ballard (the agent, who had left strategic headquarters in order to inspect troops in the field) began their formal distribution.

Mr Ballard grabbed my wrist and shook some of the leaflets back into the cycle basket. With what even I recognised as disdain, he removed the rubber band from around the bundle and slowly opened out the two-page pamphlet. It was designed in the form of a strip cartoon and its subject was Jane — the forces' favourite from the wartime Mirror who possessed an extraordinary facility for catching her dress on nails, climbing fences, tripping over banana skins and suffering various other misadventures which resulted in the exposure of the three inches of thigh Mr Ballard's pink comfortable face was creased with the agony which comes from having to decide between moral principle and political expediency. Thighs were not

acknowledged to exist in the Hillsborough Labour and Co-operative Party. Yet to throw away the leaflets was to waste half an evening's campaign. The will to win triumphed. But there were some depths to which the Alderman and agent were not prepared to sink — even to secure the victory of Mr A. V. Alexander. Turning to my mother he said "send young Roy home. This is not the sort of thing he should handle."

Others will have grander memories about the glorious summer of 1945. But I doubt if they will be more vivid. Nor I fear will they be more revealing. If on one of those memorable television programmes which will soon be devoted to Mr Attlee's victory I am asked of my memory of the week which was my answer will be "a snapshot of Dorothy Lamour." If I am invited to reminisce about the campaign, I will tell them about Jane. Perhaps more than I realised at the time was happening during July and August that year.



# The Halifax has rocked the boat and made smaller societies quite seasick



## SATURDAY NOTEBOOK

**BUILDING societies** started dancing a sailor's hornpipe over interest rates this week. With a ho-heave-ho, the Abbey National abolished differentials and cut the cost for new borrowers, prompting the Halifax to do the same several bells later and well into the evening.

This extraordinary behav-

iour by the Halifax, not only the largest building society in the world but in a size class all of its own in this country, is quite mutinous for the smaller societies who look to the Halifax for leadership and stability. It is unsettling for the whole industry that such an enormous financial institution should be packed into making such an untidy and hurried decision.

Pity the poor Halifax crew rising on Friday morning to discover not only a new mortgage rate but a whole new policy on the rating structure. The Halifax had been preparing for such a move for a few weeks and must have been extremely plucked to be ripped to the post by the arch rival Abbey. If they had waited a few days to make their announcement they would have been accused of merely copying the Abbey, but that would have been more dignified than press-gang a few directors in London and making midnight statements.

The captain of the Building Societies Association, Mr Roy Cox, should be quelling this uprising. Although the BSA now has no role in setting interest rates, it should at least be seen to know what is going on. Building societies are now operating in a new, highly competitive world where the successful need to understand the pressures not only from the banks but also from foreign institutions, and to react swiftly to the new climate. But this does not mean they should be manoeuvring themselves to take the wind out of their competitors' sails.

If the proposed merger between the Nationwide Building Society and the Woolwich does go through next spring—and it is about even betting that it will—the top three societies—the Halifax, the Abbey and the Woolwich—will control more than half the whole building society industry. Should they agree to act in

concert they can for the first time afford to ignore the rest of the fleet.

Already there will be enormous pressure on other societies to rethink their policy on charging differentials: this is the indefensible practice of making borrowers who want large loans pay more for them, even though the societies incur no higher costs when arranging big mortgages.

The Woolwich and the Nationwide do not do this (the Nationwide briefly tried and then changed its mind, but until now no one else has felt inclined to follow their line. And now it is more the market pressure—that is a need to shift their mortgage money—that has persuaded the Halifax and the Abbey, to install a single rate.

Nearly all other societies will now have to follow suit, at least differentials for large loans will disappear. Although the extra 0.5 per cent charged for endowment mortgages, on which building so-

cieties get a plump commission payment from insurance companies, stays.

But this is where the personal pique might slip in. Societies large enough to maintain an independent streak yet close enough to the top three to need to maintain an individual identity, could decide to keep at least one band of more expensive mortgages and use the extra money they get in to cut more than the 0.75 per cent already announced from the rate.

The Abbey National has always tried to lead a mutiny in the past, although it has not previously been courageous enough to walk the gang plank alone and change differentials by itself. The other societies have from time to time taken a deliberately different tack.

This would have been the weakness among the top three societies. But now that the Halifax has shown its willingness to support an Abbey policy, they may decide

that they enjoy this power.

All this brings into question the future of the Building Societies Association. The chairman may call council members back from holiday to a special meeting in August to discuss interest rates, and those that can will attend even if they have already decided on their new rating policy. At least this would restore a little discipline to the industry, which used to require the largest societies to discuss interest rates together and put their hands up to vote. But is there any other reason why these busy people should bother to head up to London at short notice?

Each year their subscription rate to the BSA goes up — the Halifax is now paying £250,000 a year — and smaller societies pay proportionately more. What are they getting for their money?

An investigation into the whole function of the BSA is at present in train, under

the guidance of the previous chief registrar of friendly societies. Its function is diminishing and once the new building society legislation is safely on the statute books in 18 months, its lobbying role will be less needed.

At least this time round the BSA must keep a grip on the reduction in savings rates. While societies have been eager to discuss what they are going to charge to new borrowers — and, if pushed, will talk about existing borrowers — none has come to any decision about what to do with the investment rate. This is a crucial point.

The high premium rates which were cast adrift only after the last general rate rise, will be scuppered but just where they will settle is an uncharted sea.

Tossing interest rates around like this will leave savers and borrowers rather queasy. But now more than ever building societies need to keep their members con-

tent: two very large mergers are in the pipeline but cannot go through without a vote of support from members. And the societies wanting to venture into the uncharted waters of the new legislation will also need a majority vote of agreement from their customers. They have to keep savers and borrowers happy.

We are not interested in who did what first or how clever a society is in thinking up ingenious schemes. They should keep their jealousies and pettiness to themselves. Savers and even borrowers can also rebel and in the coming months there will be plenty of new vessels for them to board.

At this critical stage in building society history, they cannot afford to make a wrong decision on whatever subject if societies are to maintain the public bounteous image they have always enjoyed.

Margaret Dibben

## Government lowers its sights to avoid disaster of first flotation

# Final Britoil sell-off may bring in £450m

By David Simpson  
Business Correspondent

The Government will add £450 million to its 1985/86 revenues when it completes its disposal of Britoil, the former state-owned North Sea oil company, next week.

The final phase of the Britoil privatisation will go ahead on Tuesday or Wednesday, a week later than originally scheduled, in what appears likely to be a slightly more favourable investment climate than seemed possible.

The price of the 243 million shares to be sold, 38.3 per cent of the equity, is expected to be pitched at 185p, although a stock market rally on Monday

could add a couple of pence to the offer price.

The final price will ultimately be a conservative one, however, as the Government and its advisers are insistent that the disaster of the original Britoil flotation, when three quarters of the shares were left in the hands of City underwriters, must not be repeated. Investors will be asked to make a 100p downpayment with the balance due in three months.

The timing of the Britoil sale remained in jeopardy until yesterday, but the Bank of England came to the rescue by cutting its dealing rates, prompting the possibility of a

reduction in bank lending rates early next week.

If the sale had been delayed for a second time, because of the uncertain market conditions, it would have been necessary to postpone it until the autumn when it would have clashed with other planned privatisations. The offer was first planned for this week, but was deferred until the outcome of the Opec meeting, and the consequences for oil prices, became clear.

The positive market reaction to the Bank's move boosted Britoil's share price, and an early 5p drop in value was reversed, with the shares closing 12p dearer at 206p.

At this level, they still lag

behind the 215p at which the first tranche was floated in 1982, and the Government's decision to sell now will provoke further Opposition accusations that state assets are being sold off inopportunely and cheaply.

The Government's ability to obtain even a price of 185p at the time of falling oil and share prices, represents something of a triumph for its financial advisers, bankers Lazard Brothers.

The bank persuaded the Government to give preferential allocations of shares in the new offer for sale to existing Britoil shareholders, a decision which has helped underpin the share price, with the number of Britoil shareholders

increasing by an exceptional 5 per cent over the past few weeks.

The price to be put on the issue has also been boosted by a decision to sell 20 per cent of the shares on offer to overseas investors.

The difficulties involved in the sale of the issue were reflected yesterday in a statement by Britoil that the fluctuations in currency values had forced the group to downgrade the 1985 profit forecast produced only three weeks ago.

The rise in sterling against the dollar has led to Britoil pruning its profit estimate for the year from £190 million after tax to £185 million.

## Thornton rejects new Burton bid

By Margaret Pagano  
City Correspondent

Shareholders still dithering over Burton's £580 million bid for Debenhams were urged again yesterday to firmly reject the revised higher offer.

Debenhams' boss, Mr Bob Thornton, said that Burton's higher offer still ignored the group's fundamental strengths and its future growth prospects. Accepting the offer would result in a loss of income of 15 per cent to Debenhams' shareholders, he said.

"The current share price is well supported by the profit and dividend forecasts for the current year," Current trading was ahead of budget, and retailing profits during the first 20 weeks of the year

were higher than both budget and results for the same time last year. Sales were running 10.9 per cent higher than this time last year.

Debenhams' over-30s market was expanding rapidly and, on recent figures from the Henley Centre for Forecasting, should grow by 10 per cent by 1990. Spending powers of that market should also grow by 30 per cent over the decade.

Mr Thornton added that Burton, by contrast, would see its teens and twenties market contract. Over the next decade the 15 to 29 year age group would shrink by 15 per cent and spending power by 10 per cent.

He refuted suggestions by Burton's chairman, Mr Ralph Halpern, that Debenhams' 4.5

million square feet of floor space was the most under-utilised in the business.

"It is not just homogeneous selling space to be ripped apart, subjected to the now discredited Galleria treatment and reopened as a hotch-pot of branches of Burton companies selling inexpensive clothes to a declining market."

Shares in Debenhams, which are still well below Burton's cash price of 337p, were again under pressure yesterday as the market realises that House of Fraser's stake could scupper the bid. Shares were down another 2p to 310p, while Burton's shares, after dipping 12p to 428p, recovered unchanged at 438p. The Fraser group now has over 13 per cent

## Guinness and Bell in war of words

By Mary Brasier

The takeover Panel yesterday stepped into the £300 million bid by Guinness for Arthur Bell and provoked an immediate public war of words between the two companies.

The Panel asked Bell to clarify statements contained in its defence document which concerned the rate of growth in Guinness's trading profits and claims it made about the growth of Bell's Scotch Whisky.

Guinness immediately seized on the Panel ruling to accuse Bell of "lack of accuracy". Chairman Mr Ernest Saunders said in a letter to Bell's shareholders: "Bell has failed to come up to the minimum standards of accuracy expected by the authorities."

"This lack of accuracy— even about its own business— confirms our belief that the

board is confused and unaware of the fundamental problems it raises."

The Panel statement gave Guinness fresh ammunition for its bid after announcing little new support from Bell's shareholders in the last week.

There have been few converts since the first closing date and acceptance now total just 0.22 per cent more at 5.22 per cent. The brewing group said yesterday it would extend the offer for another 12 days, until August 6, under takeover rules.

But Guinness's words about the defence documents drew immediate reaction from the Bell side which slammed the statement as "grossly inaccurate" and said it misrepresented the Panel's ruling. Bell pointed out that it had not been asked to withdraw or change its original words in the defence document.

## Edwardes wins Chloride shareholders' vote

By Clive Woodcock

The leader of the shareholders' ginger group at Chloride, the batteries firm, yesterday won a vote at the annual meeting on a proposal to elect him to the board.

But his moment of glory was short-lived because although on a show of hands the proposal was won by 34 votes to 33, Chloride's chairman, Sir Michael Edwardes, announced that he had proxy to elect 122 million against the proposal and only 1.7 million in favour.

Sir Michael called for a poll and the motion to elect Dr Maurice Gillibrand—who was once Chloride's research director—was heavily defeated. The

Chloride's board had opposed the election of Dr Gillibrand, who made another unsuccessful attempt last year.

Earlier, Sir Michael said that the recently announced deal under which Dunlop Olympic is buying Chloride's long-making American automotive batteries interest would have a very favourable impact on the balance sheet. In the accounts for the first half the US issues would still be shown, and the benefits of the deal would become apparent in the second half.

Dunlop Olympic is paying £34.5 million for the US operation and on its £18 million of borrowings.

## Tesco boss faces coup

By Our Financial Staff

Only minutes into his new job as chairman of Tesco's stores group, Sir Ian McLaurin yesterday faced the prospect of a boardroom coup.

Three women shareholders at Tesco's annual meeting where Mr McLaurin succeeded Leslie Porter, suggested what the group needed was not so much Mr McLaurin but also a woman on the board.

The lady they had in mind was Lady Porter, wife of Sir

Leslie and daughter of Tesco's legendary founder Jack Cohen. She is now Mrs Anita Raphael, said Lady Porter, who is leader of Westminster City Council, was an ideal candidate. Most of the customers who spent £3 billion last year in Tesco supermarkets were women, but she said the group had no women directors.

Lady Porter said she would accept the job if asked because she had the "necessary all-round qualifications."

## Goldsmith grows in US

From Mark Tran  
in Washington

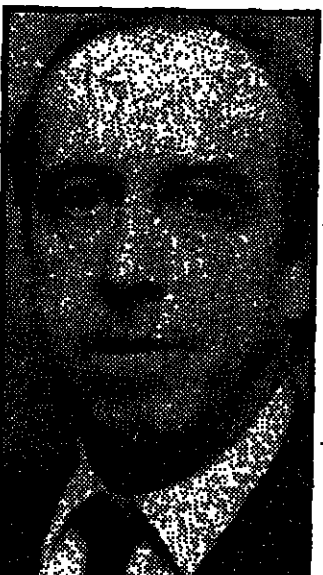
Sir James Goldsmith has consolidated his American empire by winning control of the Crown-Zellerbach forest and paper products company after an eight-month battle. Sir James, who has joined the ranks of top US corporate raiders, now has extensive timber interests in the US, owns a supermarket chain and a 10 per cent stake in Colgate Palmolive.

Sir James' assault on Crown-Zellerbach began his work from last year. If you look at the history of timberlands over the last 80 years, you will find that they have been a very good investment. They have kept ahead of inflation, and today the supply does not favour a quick sale of timberland.

creasing. I perceive future values being greater than present ones."

Five years ago, the 52-year-old Sir James after another tough fight took over Diamond International Corporation also a paper and forest products company. He broke it up and sold the pieces for a profit of more than \$500 million. But Sir James kept one piece—more than a million acres of timberland in the US.

The betting is that Sir James plans to meet out the same treatment to Crown selling off the pulp and paper assets and keeping Crown's timberland—amounting to twice that of Diamond's. Besides, the current soft market for forest property—Sir James remarks notwithstanding—does not favour a quick sale of timberland.



Ian Posgate

other six months. Attempts to reinstate him are likely to be opposed within Lloyd's. Lloyd's has made clear Mr Posgate will have to pass the fit and proper test for all underwriters if he wishes to work again in the market after January 8.

Marine syndicate 900 is one of the largest in the Lloyd's market with 2,000 names including the Duchess of Kent and Mr Adnan Khashoggi. Most of them are also on the more troubled PCW syndicate. The opportunity for Mr Posgate to move in arose after another Lloyd's underwriter suddenly pulled out of an agreement to take over the syndicate from the soon to be defunct Richard Beckett Agency. He is believed to have been influenced by legal advice.

PCW names want the syndicate to continue trading. According to members' agents who are behind the plan: "The power wielded by an active underwriter can be used to alleviate the losses of the past." They maintain Mr Posgate is the only man available to take on such a large syndicate.

## Lonrho again seeks a Fraser probe

By Mary Brasier

Lonrho has made another attempt to force a government investigation of the £615 million takeover of House of Fraser by the Al-Fayed brothers.

The sustained campaign by Lonrho chairman Mr Tiny Rowland against the takeover took another twist this week with a letter from Mr Rowland to Kleinwort Benson, the City bank which acts as advisers to the Al-Fayed.

Claiming to have new information about the three Egyptian brothers' finances, Mr Rowland calls on the bank to retract statements made during the bid which affirmed that the purchase of House of Fraser was made from the brothers' own resources.

Copies of the letter have also been sent to the Prime Minister, the Trade Secretary, Mr Norman Tebbit, who cleared the Al-Fayed bid, the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange and House of Fraser chairman Professor Roland Smith.

Accounts from House of Fraser published yesterday contain a paragraph stating that the group's ultimate holding com-

pany is now Al-Fayed Investment Trust, a private company which is wholly and beneficially owned and controlled by Mohammed, Salah and Ali Al-Fayed, and is incorporated in Liechtenstein.

Mr Rowland's letter is addressed to the chairman of Kleinwort Benson, Mr Michael Hawkes. The bank declined to comment on its contents yesterday.

Lonrho chairman Sir Edward du Cann wrote to Kleinwort Benson back in March at the time of the Al-Fayed bid asking that certain matters should be clarified in the offer document. Mr Rowland has returned to the theme asking for clarification of statements that the acquisition of House of Fraser was financed entirely from the Al-Fayed's own family resources.

Lonrho would not elaborate on their letter yesterday but said they felt it took matters forward. The group wants a Monopolies Commission inquiry into the Fraser takeover, is still considering legal action in the US against the government over the affair.

## Venezuela's crude cuts

From John Hooper  
in Geneva

Venezuela, the Opec member most affected by Mexico's price cut earlier this month, will set new prices for its crude oil next Tuesday.

The changes affecting most grades, which come within the scope of Opec's pricing structure, would be in line with the agreement announced at the end of the meeting on Thursday. Under the agreement heavy grades are to be reduced by 50 cents and medium varieties by 20 cents an adjustment regarded as insufficient to make the bulk of Venezuela's output competitive.

But much of Venezuela's crude, mostly from the Orizaba river basin, is too heavy to be covered by Opec guidelines. The prices of these grades would be sharply reduced to compensate for the expected loss of Venezuela's share of other markets, the sources said.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

THE £11 million bid for Midlands engineer R. Cartwright closed in confusion last night amid accusations of double counting by bidders Newman Tonks. The NT camp declared the bid unconditional after claiming to have 52 per cent of the shares in the bag but Cartwright alleged that a holding of 250,000 shares acquired in the market and representing 3.7 per cent of the capital had already been counted as having accepted the offer.

SOTHEBY'S sold goods worth \$502.2 million worldwide in the season now ending, not \$400.7 million as reported in yesterday's Guardian.

MERCURY Communications, sole competitor to British Telecom in basic telecommunications, and Racal, sole competitor to BT in cellular mobile radio, are to co-operate in providing services in Scotland.

Abridged particulars  
**Tiphook plc**  
please see page 5

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COMPANY BRIEFING

Another reversal for Lex Service

Lex Service's leap into electronics distribution has turned into a nightmare that is wiping out most of the good work done in the last year. The company's share price, taken to improve finances through the sale of peripheral holdings in the United States and Canada, has fallen to a low of 10p, down from 25p in the last year.

Sales of semiconductors in Europe began to nosedive in the second quarter and in the third quarter the company's share price fell to a low of 10p. The company's share price, taken to improve finances through the sale of peripheral holdings in the United States and Canada, has fallen to a low of 10p, down from 25p in the last year.

should come down sharply as the well-timed 25p dividend is paid in March. The interim dividend remains at 4.1p net a share and although it is only covered by earnings of 5p, maintenance of the 10p total for the year is indicated. As they yield over 8 per cent on this basis the shares recovered an initial 7p loss to remain at 18p, but the direction of the next big move must be very uncertain.

AN INCREASE of nearly 11 per cent in pre-tax profits was reported yesterday by the Wintrust banking group, which also announced that it was raising 25 million through a rights issue. Profits went up to £2.64 million compared with £2.38 million and the total is being raised to 3.2p a share from 2.87p, making a final of 4.6p compared with 4.3p. The directors say that in spite of fierce competition the first three months have been very satisfactory.

Flextech doubts

A big profit leap by Flextech, the USM-listed oil and gas services and pipeline stakeholder, may not be enough to lift its shares much above the 140p issue price of under 50p a share because of the uncertain oil market situation. Unfortunately, the upsurge in the contribution from the main investment in France is due for a reversal.

Pre-tax profit in the year to May 31 more than doubled to £3.28 million, from £1.55 million in 1984. In France, brought in half over half of the total but its sales of first...

the pipe in the Middle East and Brazil have peaked out. The Canadian survey and American coal processing interests give promise of future progress along with newer investments in aggregates development through the third stake in Thermal Conversions. Interest income was well up at £720,000 and the surplus funds will gradually be invested. Meanwhile, dividends are being paid because of the need to build up reserves in the absence of realisation gains. The shares ended unchanged at 58p.

CAP sale popular

The offer for sale by CAP, the leading British computer services company, for 7.5 million of its shares has been oversubscribed 2.7 times. The basis of allotment is as follows: up to 10,000 shares applied for allocation in full; between 10,000 and 50,000, 10,000 shares plus 50 per cent of the difference between 10,000 shares and the number applied for.

Those applying for more than 50,000 shares receive 30,000 shares, and about 23 per cent of the difference between 50,000 shares and the number applied for.

High hopes at Saga

Pensioners are becoming more adventurous says Mr Roger de Haan, chairman of Saga, the over-60s holiday firm. "Our long-haul package holiday to exotic places like India, Central Asia and Kenya are proving increasingly popular."

Saga, which specialises in direct sale, off-peak holidays for the senior citizen (his or her companion does not have to be 60-plus), reported a usual loss for the first six months to May at £1.83 million. The second half is when Saga makes its money, but the first half loss was \$428,000 lower than the same period last year. This was due to keeping administration cost increases to just 1 per cent and boosting margins. Turnover was up 22 per cent, and gross profits by 44 per cent.

In 1983/84 pre-tax profits rose £110,000 to £2.55 million and Mr de Haan expects another strong year. The success story so far this year has been sales to US pensioners—turnover in the US rose 30 per cent. The US did well too, with a 14 per cent increase.

Saga has been fortunate that its Spanish business accounts for only 15 per cent of sales, so it has been less hit by the terrorist bombs which have deterred many holidaymakers from choosing Spanish resorts this year.

The interim dividend goes up from 1.3p to 1.5p and the shares rose 2p to 154p yesterday.

ELECTROPLATERS and generating set manufacturers RTD Group announce a one-for-one rights issue at 15p a share to raise £690,000. It is also placing one million shares with institutions. RTD has cut its loss of £117,000 in the year ending February. The directors are making the cash call as the group is "poised to build on significant recovery by subsidiaries."

Elbief improves

The improvement reported at the halfway stage by Elbief, the handbag frame and accessory manufacturers, continued in the rest of the year, resulting in a profit rise of more than 8 per cent and turnover increasing 7 per cent.

The Birmingham-based firm achieved sales of 28.8 million compared with £25.6 million and pre-tax profits rose to £221,000 from £180,100. The profit figure includes interest received of £120,300 compared with £122,100 in the previous year.

A final of 1.28p a share is being paid, rising from 1.16p in the previous year. The interim was 0.84p. A higher tax charge this year means that earnings per share are down to 2.58p from 3.1p.

The Christmas period was again a busy time and the board says that all products were well received, although sales after Christmas were at a slower rate than in the previous year.

The photoframes and mirrors business has remained buoyant. The handbag frame business, long the mainstay and major product, also showed an improvement during the year. The directors say that a significant proportion of the company's products are now being sold overseas.

Interest rate signal brings brighter note

THE MARKETS

Stock markets ended the week on a much brighter note yesterday as the Bank of England's decision to raise the base rate to 12 per cent was widely expected. The decision was seen as a signal that the government was committed to a tight monetary policy, which helped to boost confidence in the financial markets.

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but rises among other leaders were within a band of 2p to 6p. Tate and Lyle were a dull exception on delayed recognition of their interests in South Africa, down 10p to 43p. The company announced a £5.5 million acquisition of Farm Feed Holdings.

BOC Group improved 4p to 267p ahead of third-quarter figures due early in August. British Telecom jumped 5p to 184p on further reaction to the AT and T deal. British Aerospace was a weak market of late on fears of the demise of the Eurofighter project.

Celtic Haven continued to benefit from Thursday's results and acquisition, up 2p to 87p. Dec Corporation, reporting early next month, added 5p to 248p, helped by Spanish expansion moves. Takeover rumours and country buying stimulated Armstrong Equipment at 371p, up 4p.

Main changes: ICI 668p up 7p; MEPC 274p up 14p; LRC 124p up 11p; Christie's 210p up 25p; Tate 443p up 10p; TFI 372p up 7p; BT 184p up 5p; BAE new 185p up 23p; British 206p up 1p.

Stock Exchange turnover for July 25: Number of bargains 16,544; value £377,625 million. ● Frankfurt: Prices recovered from a weak opening to finish mixed to higher. The Commerzbank index, which is compiled early in the session, was still down 4.8 points at 1379.2.

● Paris: French shares moved timidly higher in moderate to active trading. The general market indicator rose 0.21 per cent and advancing issues outnumbered declines 87 to 78. ● Tokyo: With investors hesitant to make commitments, prices softened. Nikkei index, 12,648.09 (12,647.03). ● Hong Kong: Prices finished mixed in active trading. Hang Seng index: 1683.58 (1692.06). FT Ordinary Share Index up 13.1 at 9241.1. FTSE 100 Index up 18.00 to 1,233.7. Pound: \$1.4072; DM 4.02; Fr 12.27. Gold: \$317.75. Account: July 15 to 26. FT All Share Index up 5.89 at 297.12. Sterling Index up 0.21 (1975-1990). RPI 376.4 (June) up 7 per cent on stage.

COMMODITIES

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# To you it's just a job but to them it sounds like a risky business

David Worsfold on what to do if your face — or your car — doesn't fit with an insurance company

INSURERS the world over are a conservative lot, especially with motor insurers, with whom increasing numbers of people are finding themselves classed as a difficult risk and seeing their insurance premiums rocket as a consequence. Some people are so far beyond the pale as far as most insurance companies are concerned that they have great difficulty getting insurance cover at all.

Motor insurers may take a dim view of you for a number of reasons. They might not like your car, your occupation or your age. A fast, flash sports car driven by a 20-year-old pop superstar is just about the insurance man's nightmare but even a middle-aged author driving a family saloon could find himself being charged substantially more than normal premium rates for his motor insurance cover.

Large, fast cars are likely to find little favour with insurance companies, together with ones which have been substantially altered from the manufacturer's specifications, custom built vehicles, and cars with left hand drive. An insurance company's response to an application for cover for a car falling into one of these categories will range from a polite refusal to acceptance only on certain conditions — typically a higher premium, the imposition of an "excess" for accidental damage (i.e. you pay up to the first £100 of a claim), restricting the cover only to drivers named on the policy or any combination of these conditions.

For instance, a left-hand drive car would usually cost 25 per cent more to insure than an ordinary car of the same type, whereas certain models of Alfa Romeo (to take one example) would be accepted only if the cover was restricted to a limited number of named drivers and if you accept an excess of between £35 and £100

on accidental damage claims.

Occupations that make the average insurance company see red fall into two categories: those they are unlikely to accept on any terms and those they will take on at an extra premium. The former category will include as far as most companies are concerned, bookmakers, club owners, entertainers, general or scrap dealers, street traders, pop or dance band musicians, oil or gas rig personnel, and professional sportsmen and women.

These are all the kinds of people that the insurance industry regards as "moral hazards" whose lifestyle and attitude to driving is likely to lead to higher and more frequent claims. One insurance textbook describes entertainers as "emotional people of an irregular lifestyle" and goes on to describe how they are often racing from one end of the country to another in fast cars late at night.



After 20 years in motor insurance, Neville has been written off...

Other people — antique dealers, authors, journalists, commercial travellers, classical musicians, photographers, members of the armed forces, and students — will usually be able to get cover, but at a price. Most companies will ask them to pay more for their insurance and might refuse cover for driving cars other than their own.

Journalists, for instance, will usually pay 25% more for their insurance, while commercial travellers pay 50%.

more. Commercial travellers are charged more not because the insurance industry views them as a moral hazard but simply because by driving many thousands of miles each year the chances of them being involved in an accident are inevitably a lot higher.

Young drivers pay more for their insurance as a matter of course but there are circumstances when the young (under 25 years) driver might have difficulty getting cover at all. Students are not very popular, especially if they want to drive a sports car, and younger members of the armed forces are sometimes turned away. Anyone under 25 with a particularly powerful car is liable to be turned down.

At the other end of the age scale most companies will want to look closely at a new application for insurance from someone over 70 years old. Another frequent reason for refusal is the possession of convictions for driving or other offences. Companies will not be very happy to receive a proposal from someone with drug or drink, reckless or dangerous driving convictions. Most companies will ignore parking offences and go to one speeding or similar charge but will turn you down if you have ever been disqualified from driving.

What can you do if you have been refused or if you do not like the high premium and special restrictions on offer? Shopping around is only of limited use because most insurance companies take a very similar attitude to problem cases. You should also bear in mind that all motor insurance proposals ask if you have ever been refused insurance or had special conditions imposed, so you would do well to avoid getting too long a list to put down in reply.

This particularly applies if you have been covered by one company but decide to do some shopping around one year. You might be declined by another company and, if you are, you will have to declare that fact to your existing insurance company at renewal. This might prompt them to take a more critical look at your case.

Four companies specialise in dealing with what the trade calls "non-standard" motor risks (addresses below). You could also enlist the help of a good insurance broker who should have an idea which companies might be able to accept you at a more reasonable rate, or who might carry a bit of weight with some companies.

Brokers who deal with syndicates at Lloyd's are often better placed to get you a good deal without always having to resort to one of the specialist non-standard insurers, but these companies really do come into their own if you are turned down elsewhere. They do not purport to be cheap but at least they are prepared to cover you when all else fails. All four companies offer a 60% no claims discount after four claim free years, which does go some way towards making the cost more bearable.

Cloverleaf Insurance, Sentry House, 500 Acomb Road, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2LA.

Excess Insurance, The Warren, Worthing, West Sussex BN14 9QD.

Sabre Motor Policies, Sunsites House, Station Road, Dorchester, Dorset BH4 1YX.

St Katherine Insurance, Foren House, 1515 Lime Street, London EC3M 7AP.



## A yen for dollars, francs and marks

Margaret Dibben on the lure of high risk currency funds

THE thrill of investing in currencies — the dramatic rises and catastrophic falls — is more imagination than reality, except for the recent sharp rise in the strength of the pound against the dollar and the crash of the lira.

More usually the managed currency funds are invested in a spread of currencies to avoid just such disastrous falls as the lira experienced.

But this does emphasise that putting money into currency funds is a high risk investment, where performances are dictated by widely varying events all over the world.

For UK residents, the lira's troubles mainly mean cheaper holidays. Currency fund managers are unlikely to buy into currencies with a history of volatility, so anyone

invested this way need not worry on that score. Most funds stick to the major currencies of sterling, dollar, Swiss franc, DM and yen.

This means that the US dollar's recent weakness is bad news and some currency funds have in recent months taken a bit of a knock. Others that have had confidence in sterling switched nearly all their money into the pound and ridden the storm.

This presents some investors with the problem of whether they should cut their

losses now and run into something safer or stick it out until better times and meanwhile enjoy the bumpy ride. The decision whether to buy or sell rests largely on when you bought: if you are still showing a profit on the deal, then you will be more inclined to get out with what you have. But if you are showing a loss, then you might as well stay in and hope the currency fund improves in the longer term.

Fund managers have total discretion about which cur-

rency they go for and the chances are that you will not know which and in what proportions your money is invested. The degree of exposure to different currencies varies quite widely between different funds. At the moment, however, there is widespread agreement to stick with sterling in short term funds so you can jump out immediately if the scene changes, even though this means you will not be making any currency movement gains.

Currency funds started appearing after the abolition of exchange control in 1979. There are two forms: one is the managed currency fund where you hand over your money to a specialist manager to invest on your behalf; the other, the multicurrency deposit fund, allows investors to choose for themselves which currency the money buys.

The money you make (or lose) comes from two sources: interest from the deposit account in which your savings are invested and, more importantly, a hoped-for gain because the currency you are invested in has risen in value against the base currency, which is usually sterling for UK residents. This is where the first source of interest being paid are uncertain for the time being although at least in double figures, net of charges.

All currency funds are based offshore, mostly in tax havens and usually in the Channel Islands. They can have one or other status: either accumulator or distributor. Briefly, an accumulator fund does not pay out dividends whereas a distributor fund does. Before the Chancellor stopped roll-up funds in November 1983, there was a highly attractive tax advantage.

MANAGED CURRENCY FUND			
Fund	Denominated in	Currencies in which invested	
ESG Short Term A Fund	US\$	US\$, DM, Swf, Yen, FF, Belgian Franc	
GoFund Int'l Reserves Ltd	US\$	US\$, DM, Yen, Swf, Sterling	
Guinness Maiton Int'l	US\$	US\$, Sterling, DM, Yen, Swf	
Guinness Maiton Int'l	US\$	All major world currencies	
Guinness Global Strategy	US\$	All major world currencies	
Hastings Currency Dist Fund	Sterling	Sterling, DM, US\$, Swf, Yen, but may include other currencies	
Hill Samuel Managed currency fund	£	No restrictions on currencies	
Holborn Sterling Mgt Currency	£	Major currencies & Sterling	
Jardine Fleming Mgt Currency Fund	US\$	US\$, DM, Yen, £ and any other freely negotiable currency	
Rolls-Royce OC Sterling Mgt	DM	All major currencies	
OC DM Mgt	DM	All major currencies	
OC Sterling Mgt	DM	All major currencies	
Schroder Managed Currency	£	US\$, DM, Yen, Swf, Danish Kroner, Cnd, Wst punt, Belgian franc, Dutch fl, Frk, Lira, £	
Standard Chartered Sterling Mgt	£	£, DM, US\$, Yen	
TSB Currency Fund	£	US\$, DM, Swf, Yen, £	
Tyndall Managers Currency & Gold	£	All major currencies	
Vanbrugh Currency Fund Ltd	£	Major overseas currencies and Sterling	

MULTICURRENCY DEPOSIT FUNDS			
Fund	Currency	Minimum Investment	Accumulator or Distributor
Barclays Treasury 2	£ US\$ DM Yen	£2,500	A
ESG Short Term A Fund	US\$	£1,000	A or D
GoFund Liquid Assets	US\$	£2,000	A & D
Guinness Maiton Int'l Fund	US\$	£3,000	A
Hastings Currency Dist Fund	£ US\$ DM Swf Yen	£1,000	A & D
Hill Samuel Currency Fund	£ US\$ DM Swf Yen	£1,000	A
Lazard Bros Currency Distributor Fund	US\$ Yen DM £	100 shares	A & D
Lazard Bros Currency Reserve Fund	£ US\$ DM Swf Yen	£1,000	Normally one unit of currency
Rolls-Royce	Aus \$ Belg F Cnd £ DM D R Frk Hks Lira Yen Sfrg £ Swf US\$ DM £		A & D
Schroder Money Funds	£ US\$ DM Swf Yen	£10,000	A
Schroder Portfolio Selection Fund	DM US\$ £ Yen	£2,000	D
Standard Chartered Overseas Money Market Fund	£ US\$ DM Swf Yen	£1,000	A

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## IN BRIEF: Fair play on housing

THE committee looking at the state of British housing, chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh, produced a thoughtful and far sighted report this week. Inevitably most attention has centred on the abolition of mortgage tax relief in 12 years' time rather than the deeper recommendations for financing housing, providing more rented accommodation and improving housing conditions.

Nevertheless, it is central to the committee's aim of fair play for everyone whether buying or renting a home that mortgage interest tax relief should eventually disappear. The first step could well be that in two or three years' time relief is only given at the basic rate of tax and then withdrawn completely by 10 per cent of the amount allowed (presently £30,000) a year. The alternative is to start taking 10 per cent off the top figure for tax relief again in two or three years' time.

The report recommends replacing tax relief, housing benefit and the housing element of supplementary benefit with a new "needs related housing allowance" available to anyone in financial difficulties. There should be help with maintenance and repair costs for those who cannot afford to look after their property and a completely new basis for setting rents related to the actual value of the house.

The report supports the need for renovation grants for improvement and repair and also, in some cases, improvement loans.

All of these are recommendations from a committee of 16 who spent a year looking into the problems of deteriorating houses. They feel very strongly that housing should be given a great priority but the Government will have to pick up the issue if any of the suggestions are to become fact.

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IT'S becoming easier to be unconventional in your choice of home. As more and more people decide that an old school, railway station, or a building society are having fewer qualms about lending money on them.

Only a few years ago an ordinary house converted into flats could cause problems when it came to borrowing money, but now a martello tower or windmill could not necessarily be ruled out by the big societies.

Their general rule when it comes to the less than usual property is to try to work out whether anyone other than the prospective buyers would want to live in it once the conversion is completed. Sometimes it is difficult for the branch manager to be as enthusiastic as the customer about the potential of a rat-infested barn miles from anywhere.

But for all that, the major societies are a lot less cautious than they might have been a few years ago, so long as a viable scheme is proposed.

There are plenty of unusual homes on the market for the adventurous to choose from. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings produces a quarterly list of buildings of historical interest for sale, lease or auction, which is available to members. They are all in need of repair, but that does not deter potential buyers.

These apparently much sought-after properties range from ramshackle cottages in Somerset at £7,000 to a Queen Anne School in Herefordshire at around £700,000.

The majority are in the £50,000 to £200,000 range and include old farm houses, barns, country houses, churches, schools, warehouses, and station buildings.

Some need as much as ten times their cost price spending on them to bring them up to standard but generally mortgages can be found.

The society had a number of churches and chapels on their list, but these were not



They might say yes to a windmill — picture by Denis Thorpe

Lindsay Cook on the building societies' new readiness to lend money on unconventional homes

## A falling demand for ticky tacky boxes

popular as they often had restrictions on their use and new owners could not convert the building into a home.

The society found that unusual properties sold more quickly in the south-east, where house prices often made the gamble and hard work of conversion more worthwhile.

The Halifax Building Society now regards barns as "normal lending" and has provided the cash for church conversions, houses with shops, a nursing home, guest houses, and boarding houses. If the property's value is established by a valuer and insured, a loan would be made.

A spokesman said: "We

have lent money on very old grain stores that have been converted into beautiful homes. An old school will convert easily. We are open to almost any proposition. Mortgage funds are available and we are able to look at the more unusual conversion."

On the day I spoke to the Halifax, half a dozen "unusual" applications had been referred to head office for approval. They were for a hotel, a farm, and the rest were small shops with houses. "There seems to be a demand for funds to buy a post office or newsagent's shop to start a business. If the applicants have a reasonable reference we are quite happy."

At the Woolwich their spokesman said that attitudes today were "vastly different"

from those of a few years ago, and not just with go-ahead societies. "Some have always been pretty good, but the vast majority have liberalised their ideas in the last five years. We have lent on windmills, castles, barns and all sorts of properties. There was once a stigma attached to almshouses, but now they make some of the most attractive homes."

He added that some branch managers may not be as willing as others to consider an exciting project and that while the society laid down guidelines on lending, these were not rules. Some mortgage seekers might therefore have to shop around for a manager more in tune with their way of thinking.

The Building Societies

Association said that most societies looked at whether a property would be marketable if the borrowers were to default. With greater demand for money to carry out novel conversions, there was therefore more willingness to lend money.

But all societies are concerned about restrictions on the use of properties which may have changed from agricultural, religious or railway use. These can cause long term problems.

For example, the delightful crossing cottages erected on railways before planning legislation was introduced have no established residential use, which means they need planning consent to be used as homes. And problems can arise when an old cottage needs demolishing and rebuilding or a new owner wants to add an extension.

Properties too close to the track can also cause problems and British Rail considered jacking up and moving one building in the Cotswolds because it was too close to the line. This would have needed local authority consent and in the end the cottage was demolished.

Station buildings are popular, particularly in the country, with British Rail being virtually able to name their price in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset.

The buildings are most popular on disused lines and are usually sold with mains water, and some form of drainage connection, possibly a septic tank, although some have cesspits. They usually have an electricity supply, but not always, and often do not have gas.

The properties were usually advertised nationally and then sold by tender or auction a couple of months later.

Any less than standard property needs careful consideration and the help of architects and solicitors in putting a scheme together.

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings can be contacted at 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY. Membership costs £12 a year for a single person or £18 for a couple.



Aromatic plants: drawing of nicotiana, stocks, and pansies by Sharon Finmark.

## Common scents

The fragrance of flowers and shrubs is at its most enticing at this time of the year. Alan Gemmell suggests ways of making the most of it — and explains that scent is not just a happy accident.

ASK anyone to name the main attractions of the garden and I am confident that they will start off by talking about colour and peacefulness. If you pry a little more, they will almost certainly say that the scent of the garden is a continual source of pleasure: they may even rhapsodise about sitting outside on a cool July evening among all the scented pleasures. To me the smell of newly mown grass is almost magically evocative.

Scent is not just a happy accident, however: it has important biological value. Shrubs with scented leaves such as lavender, thyme, and rosemary may well be disliked by grazing animals because of the aromatic oil the leaves contain. In moorland or mountainous areas such as the French Maquis, which is heavily grazed by sheep and goats, the aromatic herbs are left alone, and in the summer the air in such places is full of delightful odours.

The chemical nature of scent is complex, and many different chemical compounds make a contribution. But in general they are oily substances, often called essential or aromatic oils, which can be seen as minute droplets in the cells of scented plants. These oil-containing cells are usually called glands and occur in the surface, or immediate subsurface layer of the flower or leaves: there they are exposed to the surface and when exposed to the air are oxidised and so become scents.

The economy of nature is apparent in the scent glands in flowers being frequently placed on the inner surface of the petals: there they are protected from the air until the buds open, and only then does the scent emerge. This is most easily tested in night flowering plants: the insect will be able to see the target and can home-in on the flower. This is especially



"If an insect follows the scent, it can home in on the flower"

source but are a blend of a number of oils. This is exactly what the perfumier does to produce his perfumes: because scent is a blend, it has been likened to a chord of music where individual notes combine to produce the final effect.

In flowers scent has the function of attracting insects. Scent carried in breezes or air currents are used as a kind of long distance signal. If an insect follows increasing concentrations of the scent it will get nearer and nearer the flower. Eventually the insect will be able to see the target and can home-in on the flower. This is especially

important in the case of night flying insects and plants which open at evening such as stock and nicotiana. Insects are helped on the final leg of their journey by night flowering plants frequently having white or pale coloured petals visible in half light or dark.

Because the sense of smell in human beings is poorly developed, one should avoid growing scented plants in exposed or windy situations. The ideal place is a sheltered corner or glade where moist air will help the scent to linger. Another good place is near or underneath a window, and I have enjoyed a kitchen filled with the scent of clove pinks growing in a bed below the open window.

Terraces, patios, and areas around garden seats are obvious places for scented plants. These can be grown in tubs, which are easily planted up with wallflowers, heliopsis, nicotiana, and mignonne. Scented shrubs, too, can come into their own if you can reach out and touch them, pluck a few leaves, and crush them to release the scent. Lavender, rosemary, and verbena Snow Queen are useful for this purpose, and there are many others with scented flowers such as roses, Clethra alnifolia, Philadelphus coronarius, lilacs.

Walls can be clothed with honeysuckle or jasmine, and patios can have thyme, veronica Sparkle Mixed, Alyssum montanum, and Dianthus gratianopolitanus growing in the cracks between paving slabs.

Because human noses are such inferior olfactory systems, gardeners should plan their gardens to ensure that scented plants come close to people. In such a situation they will multiply the pleasures of the garden, as William Coles wrote in 1656: "Flowers comfort the weary brain with fragrant smells which yield a certain kind of nourishment."

## Put your finger on a top performing unit trust.

Big changes in financial centres around the world have given financial shares their biggest boost for years and have helped make Save & Prosper Financial Securities Fund a top performing fund. We believe there is plenty more to go for!

Phone us today between 10.00 and 4.00. You're straight through for free.

**MONEYLINE**  
0800-282101

**SAVE & PROSPER**

## If my cheque is guaranteed why is my address important?

### YOUR MONEY LETTERS

answered by Margaret Dibben

WHEN paying by cheque in a shop and producing my cheque guarantee card I was asked for my address. Is the shop assistant entitled to demand an address? I regard this as a possible way of producing cheque fraud. — R. C. Leigh-on-Sea.

IT is not normal for shop assistants to ask for the address of a customer paying in this way, but it depends on

the practice of the particular shop. Some businesses may insist on an address with all cheque purchases. Normally, however, an address will only be asked for if the shop assistant spots some irregularity.

To answer your question, a bank spokesman tells me that the shop is perfectly entitled to ask for a cheque purchaser's address, or refuse to accept the cheque, with or without a guarantee card.

**Tax on the sale of a second home**

I HAVE a second house bought for £4,800 seven years ago, and now expect to sell it for £14,000. Various improvements have been made to the property which is let to students. What will the capital gains tax liability be? — J.C.K. Coventry.

PROVIDED the improvements are approved ones — the installation of central heating, double glazing, etc. — and no repairs, you may be allowed to deduct the expenditure from your capital gain.

Your CGT bill should not cause you any sleepless nights. Indexation under the

new Budget rules, and the current year's £5,800 gains exemption should leave you with a payment of about £500. This is without any allowances you may have for improvements to the property.

**Should I sell my granny bonds?**

I HAVE index-linked savings certificates bought in August 1975 and October 1982. Are they worth holding on to, and if not what is a better investment? — D.P., Sutton.

EACH £100 of your 1975 investment is now worth £202.50 and your 1982 investment £117.44. These figures include supplements added to the inflation rates to which your granny bonds are linked. Another 3 per cent bonus will be paid if you hold your bonds until November, which at the present inflation rate will give you a total return of about 8½ per cent. This is little better than the 8½ per cent you will get at the moment in an ordinary building society account, but if you are prepared to give seven days' notice of withdrawal you will get at least 9½ per cent tax free.

## POSTAL Shopping GUIDE

**TOP QUALITY! BRITISH MADE! GREAT VALUE! FREE P&P!**

<b>BOXER SHORTS</b> 3 PAIRS FROM £5.95 FREE postage FREE return	<b>BEACH SHORTS</b> 2 PAIRS FROM £5.95 FREE postage FREE return	<b>LADIES LEISURE SHORTS</b> 2 PAIRS FROM £5.95 FREE postage FREE return
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Springfield Mail Order Ltd., P.O. Box 132, 15 Tyssen Street, London E8 2NF.

**Pick up Cat & Dog Hairs easily**  
— that ordinary vacuums leave behind

**NEW! PET-VAC**  
REVOLUTIONARY VACUUM CLEANER HEAD

**UNIQUE 2 WAY ACTION**  
LEADING AND TRAILING EDGES FIRST CLING TO PET HAIRS THEN RELEASE THEM INTO VACUUM CHAMBER

**SELF-ADJUSTING UNIVERSAL ADAPTOR FITS EVERY DOMESTIC CLEANER HOSE**

**FOR CARPETS, FURNITURE, CAR, CARAVANS, ETC.**

**£6.99**

Dept. GPTV - 115 Sea Road, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 3BB. All Credit Cards Tel: 0903 776111 (24 hrs)

**DUNLOP LATEX**  
QUALITY FOAM

**cut to any shape or size**

• EXCELLENT RANGE of Dunlop Latex & Foam  
• YOUR OWN CUSTOM COVERS re-filled professionally — any shape!  
• 80% REDUCED BEDBOUNCE BED  
• Send size of bed for cut price quote  
• Over 1000's of beds in stock  
• 2 packings in Plastic Green or Latex  
• Mobile check order delivered with white Dunlop Machine in 24 hours  
• 30-40% 30-40% 30-40%

**FOAM FOR COMFORT**  
Dept. G, 401 Only, Old Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JF Tel: (0206) 678281/678270

**ABLE LABELS**

YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, TEL. No. OR ANYTHING YOU WISH UP TO 6 LINES PRINTED 24 LETTERS/SPACES A LINE SELF-ADHESIVE — NO DAMPING 15mm x 48mm

**1000 Black on White £3.25**  
**Labels Black on Gold £4.00**

Use of Labels: Home, Office, School, Club, Shop, Car, Boat, etc. Labels are printed on high quality paper and are self-adhesive. They are ideal for marking books, papers, etc. and are available in a wide range of sizes and quantities.

Dept. G, 401 Only, Old Road, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JF Tel: (0206) 678281/678270

**PLASTIC COATED STEEL SHELVING**  
One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, thirty, thirty-one, thirty-two, thirty-three, thirty-four, thirty-five, thirty-six, thirty-seven, thirty-eight, thirty-nine, forty, forty-one, forty-two, forty-three, forty-four, forty-five, forty-six, forty-seven, forty-eight, forty-nine, fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two, fifty-three, fifty-four, fifty-five, fifty-six, fifty-seven, fifty-eight, fifty-nine, sixty, sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-three, sixty-four, sixty-five, sixty-six, sixty-seven, sixty-eight, sixty-nine, seventy, seventy-one, seventy-two, seventy-three, seventy-four, seventy-five, seventy-six, seventy-seven, seventy-eight, seventy-nine, eighty, eighty-one, eighty-two, eighty-three, eighty-four, eighty-five, eighty-six, eighty-seven, eighty-eight, eighty-nine, 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# The Government-favoured Housing Corporation kicks its benefactor in the teeth

## Tax relief—but no roof over your head

WHILE the Duke of Edinburgh's Inquiry into British Housing is stealing the limelight with radical proposals for the future of housing finance and provision, another voice has gone relatively unremarked, in the annual report of the Housing Corporation, the state funded quango responsible for the promotion and development of the nation's 2,642 registered housing associations, chairman Sir Hugh Cullis does not mince words in calling for an expansion of the corporations activities — and by implication a revision of Government housing policy, if there is such a thing.

While accepting the fact that housing associations have done relatively well compared with local authority housing finance, Sir Hugh is frank about the scale of problems facing the Corporation: "1984 was not an easy year for housing associations and 1985 offers little prospect of improvement. The fact remains that resources available in both years fall very far short of those required to meet

the all-too-apparent housing needs of the country."

The irony of these pronouncements lies in the fact that the Corporation has shown to the housing association movement, considered a major plank in housing policy from Ian Gow, housing and construction minister, downwards. Indeed, the fact that the Housing Corporation has avoided the damaging cuts in its budget that the Treasury has inflicted on everyone else, has sometimes led to the Corporation and local authorities, as has recently been the case in Liverpool.

Over the year the Corporation has spent £389.9 million on 37,082 new homes, over 80 per cent for rent. That compares with just under 200,000 new homes completed over the same period.

But as fast as the Corporation is running, it is still not fast enough to stand still, let alone get anywhere. The chief executive, David Edmunds, admits that the Corporation is barely doing enough to meet its own identified needs, let

alone the total needs of the population.

In response to the Government's financial management initiative requiring each quango to produce its own corporate five-year plan, the Corporation has recently submitted its own strategy for the rest of the decade. This points out that on the Corporation's highly conservative estimates, it will need to provide accommodation for up to 20,750 mentally handicapped people who will be discharged into the community by the Government's Care in the Community scheme. Ex-offenders released from prison who have nowhere to go total some 22,000 people a year; 835,000 physically handicapped people are reckoned to be living in unsuitable accommodation.

In London alone 4,000 new bed spaces are needed to replace hostel closures. And the Corporation is continuing to fund schemes to provide low cost homes for sale or rent, homes for the frail elderly (the numbers of those over the age of 85 are expected to double by

the end of the century), and schemes for single parents, elderly ethnic communities, rural housing schemes for areas suffering from a lack of decent housing, and myriad other demands.

To fulfil its present obligations, the Corporation believes that it will need to increase its output to around 45,000 units a year for England and Wales; in other words, back to the levels of the mid-seventies prior to the existing administration's rise to power.

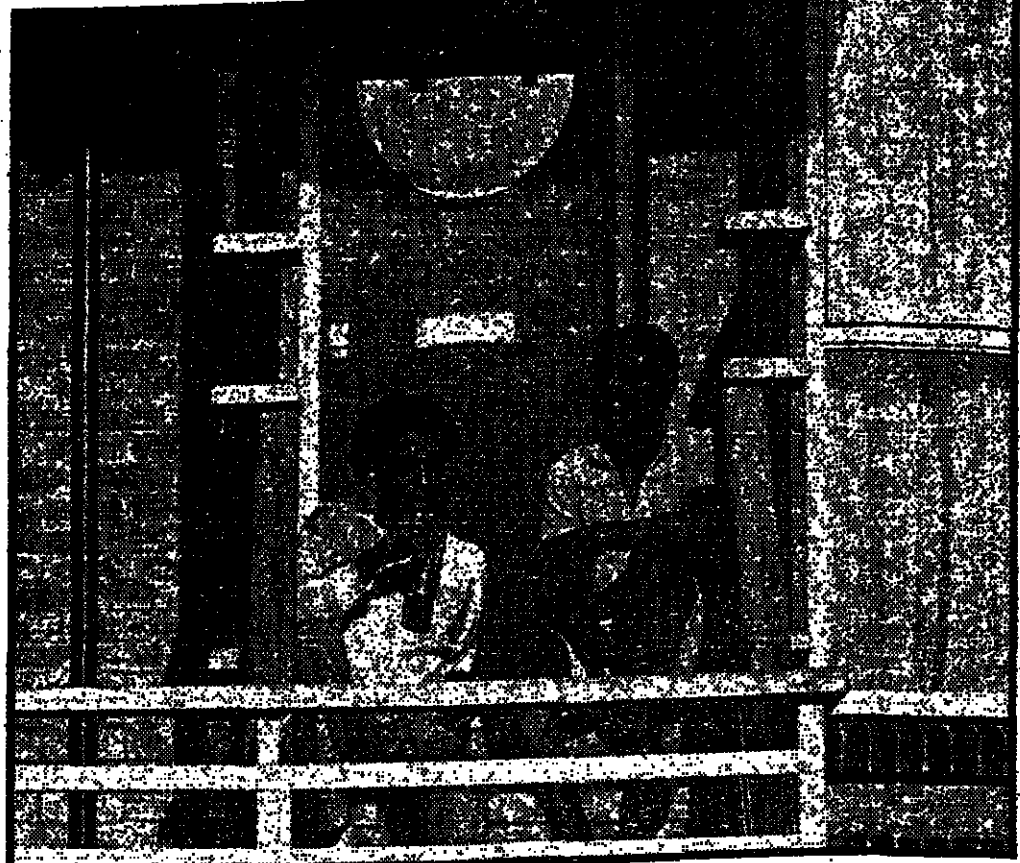
The response to the report from the Department of the Environment has been a resounding silence. The Corporation will have to wait until next year's spending allocations are made known just before Christmas to know whether their pleas for more cash have fallen on deaf ears.

In the meantime Mr Edmunds is fearful of the consequences of the present policies. "Given the amount of investment in housing in the inner cities, how are we going to improve the housing stock? The scale of investment at the moment is not even enough to stop the

situation getting worse, let alone improve matters."

The Government's response to demands for more money from the Corporation is that the private sector should be encouraged to provide more cash. Some moves have been made, notably with the Nationwide Building Society, which has provided up to £30 million for new shared ownership schemes in the course of the year. But even this relatively meagre response has both been "very hard work," according to Mr Edmunds, and the subject of considerable chagrin by the Corporation. The imposition of VAT on conversion work, and a reduction in funds available to the Corporation, is seen as "taxing away" any financial benefits the housing association movement may get from private sector funding. David Edmunds asks: "What is the point of us raising another £10 million from the private sector if it is immediately knocked off our cash limit?"

Tim Roberts



One of 60 purpose-built homes for young people provided by the Slough Multiracial Council in conjunction with Northborough Housing Co-operative and the Housing Corporation.

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house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,

1 en-suite, 1 kitchen, 1 living room,

1 study, 1 office, 1 garage, 1 carport,

1 carport, 1 carport, 1 carport







## SATURDAY

## BBC-1

- 7.10-8.25 am Open University. 8.30 The Saturday Picture Show. 11.15 P.M. Untamed Frontier. 1952 Western with Shelley Winters, Joseph Cotten.
- 12.30 GRANDSTAND: 12.35, 1.10, 3.30 Motor Sport from Silverstone. British Grand Prix meeting; 1.0 News; Weather; 1.55, 2.30, 3.55 Racing from Ascot; 2.5, 2.40, 3.30 Volleyball, The Hitachi Cup; 4.55 Final score.
- 5.0 NEWS: Weather news, regional sports news.
- 5.20 THE NEW ADVENTURES OF WONDER WOMAN: Death in Disguise.
- 6.5 ANYTHING GOES: The Greasiest Show on Earth. Nothing to do with Bob Monkhouse... The first in a series of six circus shows from the Blackpool Tower ring with three families battling it out, being shot from cannons and catching cream tans. Cerefix sub-titles.
- 6.50 PLEASURE PALACE: Victoria Principal comes out of mourning for Bawbee Ewing and takes up with Omar Sharif in this made-for-TV tale of the high rollers—professional gamblers in Las Vegas. Glamour and chips with everything.
- 8.25 ARE YOU BEING SERVED? Grounds for Divorce. Repeated helping of the department store soufflé.
- 8.55 THE VAL DOONICAN MUSIC SHOW: Last in the series for the rocking-chair entertainer with guests Robert Lindsay and Emma Thompson from the West End musical Me and My Girl.
- 9.40 NEWS AND SPORT: Weather news.
- 9.55 INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS: The Bisset Games from Oslo with Coe, Cram and Joaquim Cruz running in the Dream Mile.
- 10.40 MIXED COMPANY: First showing on British TV of bouncy comedy starring Joseph Bologna as a basket ball coach, stern after a bout of mumps, whose wife (Barbara Harris) decides to adopt a brood of children from a black problem child to a Hopi Indian boy and a Vietnamese girl.
- 12.25 Weather: Close.

Wales: 12.30-5.5 pm Grandstand including Show Jumping from Flock.

- Anglia
- 6.15 As London.
- 9.25 Cartoon Time.
- 9.35 Puffin's Platice.
- 10.0 The Harlem Globetrotters.
- 10.25 Film: Moon.
- 10.30 Zero Two 1989 space thriller with James Cameron.
- 10.35 Catherine Von Schell.
- 10.40 Warren Mitchell.
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## MPs and conservationists protest over Okehampton decision

## Ridley to force bypass on park

By John Ardill and Alan Travis

THE Transport Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, caused a storm of protest yesterday by announcing that the Government will force the A30 Okehampton bypass to be routed through Dartmoor National Park, overturning the decision of a joint committee of MPs and peers.

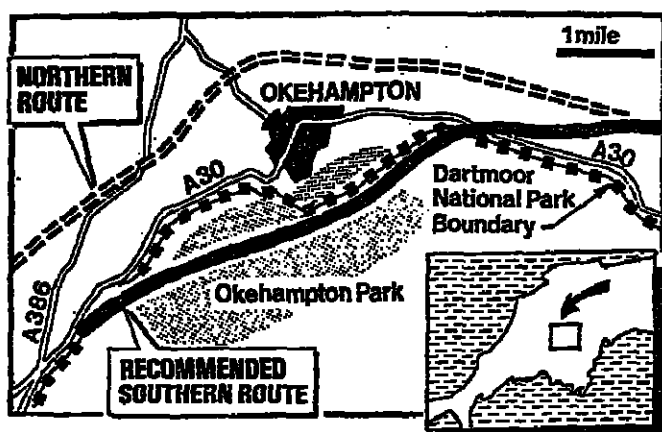
The Government will introduce a confirmatory bill, a device last used 36 years ago. The bill then was only to reverse a joint committee's amendments, and not to overturn a ruling.

After yesterday's announcement the Labour transport spokesman, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, called for Mr Ridley's resignation.

Mr Peter Rost, Conservative MP for Exmouth and chairman of the committee, told the minister: "By so arrogantly overriding your own policies and reversing a decision carefully considered by a special committee of both houses, you are creating a constitutional precedent and will undoubtedly arouse a great deal of criticism. Haven't we had enough banana skins in recent months?"

About 300 MPs are already ranged in roughly equal numbers, behind motions supporting and opposing a bill on the Okehampton issue, which has split local and national opinion for a decade.

Mr Ridley told the Commons: "This issue must be resolved once and for all. Everyone was united on the need for a bypass. It could take eight or nine years to plan and build the road on a



northern route, while the southern route could be completed in three years.

For the people of Okehampton and the people of Devon and Cornwall, the long delay and uncertainty would be intolerable," he said.

Conservationists will mount a fierce campaign over the summer to persuade MPs and peers to reject the confirmatory bill. They say that the future of national parks policy is at stake.

The Government is supported by transport, tourism and local interests, which want the bypass built as soon as possible, and by farmers along the northern route. Objectors say that a delay for two or three years needed to take the northern route is a small price for preserving the Dartmoor park.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England said: "It is an astonishing misjudgment by the Government and will lead to a major battle in Parliament.

It is a vitally important issue both in terms of Britain's national parks and because of the constitutional issues it raises."

Miss Kate Ashbrook, secretary of the Open Spaces Society, said: "We will be fighting tooth and nail to get the plan scrapped and I am sure the Government do not realise what a hornet's nest they have stirred up. We are shocked and horrified."

Ms Fiona Reynolds, secretary of the Council for National Parks, said it was a "slap in the face." The chairman of the Countryside Commission, Sir Derek Barber, has written to the Environment and Transport Secretaries objecting to the decision.

Lady Sayer, patron of the Dartmoor Preservation Society, said: "The Government must take the slightest care for the environment."

But Mrs Mary Vick, a Devon county councillor and member of the national park committee, who lives a quar-

ter of a mile from the route, said: "It won't damage the park at all. I am delighted. It's a great day for democracy."

The RAC said that the announcement came as a deep relief. Motorists, trade and tourist interests and local residents would be delighted that the Government did not intend to allow controversy over the route to add a further 10 years' delay "to removing this horrendous bottleneck."

The National Farmers' Union and the West Country Tourist Board welcomed the plan. Mr Michael Sutton-Scott, chairman of the Devon County Landowners' Association, said: "It is the right decision environmentally and will protect the splendid views of the country to the North of Okehampton which can be seen from the high ground of Dartmoor."

The bypass has been in the national road programme since 1968. In 1976, the government announced a preferred route to the south of the edge of Dartmoor. A public inquiry in 1979-80 found in favour of the southern route, and this was endorsed by the transport and environment secretaries.

Compulsory purchase order for the route were referred to a joint select committee which found by a 4-2 majority in April this year that the route breached the 10-year-old policy that roads should be built inside national parks only when there was no reasonable alternative.

## Company fails owing £6m to JMB

By David Pallister

A company which owed the Johnson Matthey Bank \$6 million has been forced into liquidation.

The bank, which collapsed amid accusations of fraud, is named in the bankruptcy petition as a supporting creditor of Berg Sons & Co.

The company was owned by Mr Ummed Chand Golecha, one of a group of Indian businessmen based in London who used the Johnson Matthey bank for commodity trading in Nigeria.

The main petitioner, Union Discount, a City firm which discounted bills of exchange, says Berg Sons owed it \$500,000 on bills of exchange which had been guaranteed by another Indian commodity merchant, Esal, one of Johnson Matthey Bank's largest debtors.

The head of Esal, Mr Rajendra Sethia, is in gaol in New Delhi, facing fraud charges. The British Government is seeking his extradition.

When Mr Sethia went bankrupt earlier this year, with £170 million in personal debts, he became the biggest bank-rout in the world. His indebtedness to Johnson Matthey, which was incurred through huge sugar exports to Nigeria, is still unknown but City estimates put it at between £20 million and £40 million.

One effect of Mr Sethia's sugar business—he was the main supplier to the Nigerian National Supply Company—was that the wholesale price in Nigeria rose to four times the international market price.

Union Discount sources said yesterday that there seemed to be very little money left in Berg Sons.

Company House records show that Mr Golecha set up another company, Berg & Co. (UK), in February this year, three weeks before the first bankruptcy papers were filed at the High Court.

Other major clients trading with Nigeria the Melwans Company—operates a commodity trading company from Grosvenor Street, London. The Melwans associate company in Lagos, Treckay Traders, is fighting a court battle over an insurance claim with a Nigerian subsidiary of the American International Insurance Group.

The subsidiary is disputing a claim for a duty-free shipment allegedly lost off the west African coast in 1978. In the court case the Nigerian authorities held Ariadna Melwan, a director of Treckay Traders, and interviewed him about alleged fraud.

Ariadna Melwan, a British citizen, has been released on bail, conditional on his staying in Nigeria until the fraud case is resolved.



Mrs Thatcher and Mr Bush at the international conservation meeting in Washington yesterday

## Washington whirl gives Thatcher chance to impress

From Alex Brummer in Washington

Mrs Thatcher stormed through Washington yesterday, warning that the West faces a big Soviet propaganda offensive and opposing any economic sanctions against the South African regime.

The Prime Minister, who was attending an international meeting of conservative politicians, used the occasion to bolster her image as a world statesman before a highly sympathetic audience, including the US Vice-President, George Bush.

She was also basking in the praise of her leadership, as Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's propaganda offensive, aimed at Western public opinion, would pursue the hope that the US could be pressed into giving up its research on the Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars), and Britain and France their independent nuclear deterrents.

Moscow wants us to "accept the Soviet view and give up our own. That will not do, she pronounced in her best Iron Lady tone.

Mrs Thatcher called at the White House with the other leaders yesterday but did not meet President Reagan.

"I didn't want to put a burden on him," she said after talks with Mr Bush. As Mrs Thatcher was leaving Mr Reagan took off by helicopter for his first weekend at Camp David since his cancer operation.

The Prime Minister's tub-thumping speech was delivered before the International Democratic Union, the importance of whose proceedings has been undermined by the absence of Mr Reagan.

Stepping in for the President at the JDU's main dinner, where Mrs Thatcher gave the main address, and at the White House yesterday, Mr Bush spent a great deal of his time complimenting the President on his recovery.

If Mrs Thatcher had expected her third visit to Washington to be triumphant as before, she was mistaken. In a series of television interviews she was forced quickly onto the defensive about the refusal of Britain, as the West's largest investor in South Africa, to join in voluntary sanctions.

She was also berated about her failure to back her strong words about terrorism.

"The policy of sanctions against Pretoria would hurt the very people you want to help," Mrs Thatcher said. "I believe in a policy of trying to influence South Africa by other means."

Putting aside the state of emergency, the violence, and the mass arrests, Mrs Thatcher chose to praise the South African Government for going further along the road to reform than its predecessors — particularly in putting an end to the policy of "forced removals" of blacks.

At the White House, Mrs Thatcher resumed talks begun earlier this month with Mr Bush on anti-terrorism measures. She made it clear that Britain would not outlaw planes using Beirut airport unless everyone joined in, a highly unlikely occurrence.

The reluctance of allies to back up the US's call for isolating airports such as Beirut, which harbour terrorism has given rise to considerable indignation in the US.

## US tells S. Africa to end emergency

Continued from page one

change of tune could be seen as embarrassing for Mrs Thatcher, who had spent much of her Washington visit yesterday refusing to condemn the state of emergency and denouncing the use of sanctions.

Robin Dilks adds from New York: The French diplomatic drive at the United Nations to gain the widest possible support for limited voluntary sanctions against South Africa lost much of its early impetus yesterday because of the need for protracted private negotiations about the exact wording of a Security Council resolution.

The French knew Britain and the US would not concur but still expected that abstentions by South Africa's biggest trading partners would let their own measures through.

However, hope in the French camp of ready approval from black Africa proved to be optimistic. The open council session had to be suspended for four-and-a-half hours on the first day, giving time for attempts to agree a tougher text that France could still accept.

Consultations continued well into yesterday — at the appointed hour for a resumption, only two diplomats and three security guards could be seen in the council chamber. Delegates from the Non-aligned and African states were meeting to try to harmonise their ideas with the French. Barter continued behind the scenes as the formal session resumed.

## SA arms embargo breached

By Seamus Milne

A British company is exporting sophisticated production equipment to Atlas Aircraft Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the South African Arms Corporation (Armscor), in breach of the United Nations' mandatory arms embargo and apparently without the knowledge of the British Government.

Documents in the Guardian's possession show that Borex Machine Tool Company, based in South Wales, has sold a numerically-controlled Borex-mill 800 KV milling machine to Atlas Aircraft via a third company, Johannesburg-based Fritz Wallberger Machines. The equipment is due to be shipped out this weekend.

Atlas Aircraft is in charge of the procurement, production and servicing of all military aircraft in South Africa. Tooling engineers at the British helicopter company, Westlands, yesterday confirmed that Borex's milling machine would be suitable for work on airframes or aircraft control systems.

Mr Abdul Munir, director of the Norway-based Campaign against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, said last night that he believed the machine would be used for re-arming the airframe of South Africa's ageing Mirage fighter aircraft. It could also be used in Pretoria's attempt to build its own helicopters.

In London, the Anti-Apartheid Movement protested to the Foreign Office and asked it to stop the export. The documents dealing with the export of the milling machine, whose price is around £27,000, reveal how nervous the South African millennium Mr Fritz Wallberger had become about the danger of the deal being blocked, if it became known that Atlas Aircraft was the final buyer.

## Conman suspect

Continued from page one

Mr Ronald Blake, a senior partner, said: "He came in about 10 o'clock and was dealt with by one of our junior members of staff. He told her he had visited a property on the previous evening, but the owners wouldn't let him in. He started waving about a piece of paper which he said was a banker's draft for £60,000, so the money was immediately handed to him."

He was going to pay it into the bank next door to complete the purchase of the house as quickly as possible.

"With that, he went off, claiming he was going to Lloyds Bank and then come back again. This time he talked to another senior member of my staff who came to me and said the man claimed to be a doctor."

"We immediately got in touch with the police and they were very quick off the mark."

Police immediately put a cordon around Woking as detectives searched the streets

of the credit rating committee of JMB are liable to be sued for failing in their fiduciary duty under common law. Why have they not been sued?" asked Mr Sedgemore, a barrister.

He argued that the directors of JMB, not their former auditors, should be sued under the Companies Act for making reckless statements in the bank's accounts. Last Tuesday the Bank of England served a writ on the bank's former auditors. They in turn issued a libel writ against Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor. It was JMB's directors, not the auditors, who were responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

Mr Sedgemore claimed that Mr Leigh Pemberton should answer for the evidential difficulties, as he had given those instructions to the auditors, and fix up alibis.

Mr Hepker, has stated publicly that he is a man of integrity. Mr Sedgemore said: "I ask this House what director of a respectable businessman is who, when he is reported to the takeover panel and evidence is given against him on July 21st, 1984, has friends who will telephone the person giving evidence and say they will blow his legs off."

"There may be some attempts to shut me up. Islington police have been warned in relation to one of these men. I have warned Command-

er Hunter of the Hackney police about any possible consequences there may be for me, my ex-wife, or my son."

Mr Hepker was the beneficial owner of Ravensbury Investments (Wales), and had borrowed £1.5 million from JMB to develop a site at Barry, South Wales, on the basis of a deal with Tesco stores.

But the deal with Tesco to build a store on the site fell through before he reached agreement on the loan with JMB.

Mr Hepker carried on with the property deal and bought the site. The only money which was definitely repaid of the £1.5 million was £293,310

on July 8, 1981. A further £110,000 may have been paid later. Mr Sedgemore claimed that the remaining £1 million had been transferred through a series of companies for Mr Hepker's personal use.

The Labour MP's other principal fresh allegation centres on Mr Ian Fraser, a director of JMB who dealt with Mr Mahmud Sipra, another customer of the bank about whom he said he had been specifically warned.

Mr Fraser had been warned in 1982 about Mr Sipra, but said he would perform and fulfil his contract and on that basis lent him substantial sums.

Mr Sipra has also publicly denied the allegations

## PO to launch £100m computer network

By Michael Smith

The Post Office is poised to launch a £100 million investment programme to bring automation to branch counters. Detailed plans are with the minister for technology, Mr Geoffrey Pattie, and seem likely to be approved shortly after the holiday season.

The Post Office will start by computerising the counter services at 250 branches in one region over the next two years. It is expected that the prosperous Thames Valley region will be selected to start the service.

Automation of the counter services will allow the Post Office to computerise all its existing services and to undertake similar financial services for other organisations. Talks have already been held with building societies and insurance companies who would use the network to market their own services.

The Post Office plans to automate at least 6,000 of its 21,000 branches by the early 1990s. The plan involves full automation of all 1,500 main post offices and at least 4,500 sub-offices, though this figure may grow if the Post Office can persuade sub-postmasters to contribute to the investment programme.

The cost of bringing automation to about a third of the branch network could reach £1 billion over a decade. There will be a fierce battle among computer firms to win the contracts. The Post Office is likely to place the initial contracts immediately after government endorsement of the plans.

Meanwhile, the Post Office has disclosed record profits of £144.5 million for the past year, an increase of £20 million on 1983-84. The postal operations generated their ninth successive profit of £133.7 million, while National Girobank made £10.8 million.

The Post Office has again been criticised for not meeting mail delivery targets. Last year, 86.3 per cent of first class letters arrived the following day against the target of 90 per cent, but the performance has reportedly improved this year.

Aitken will

Sir Max Aitken, the former chairman of Beaverbrook Newspapers, left estate in England and Wales valued at £1,017,898 gross, £989,891 net, in his will published yesterday.

Mowing death

Heather Bruce, aged 16, of Stewarston, Ayrshire, was electrocuted when an electric mower she was using cut through the power cable.

THE GUARDIAN PRIZE PUZZLE 17,299

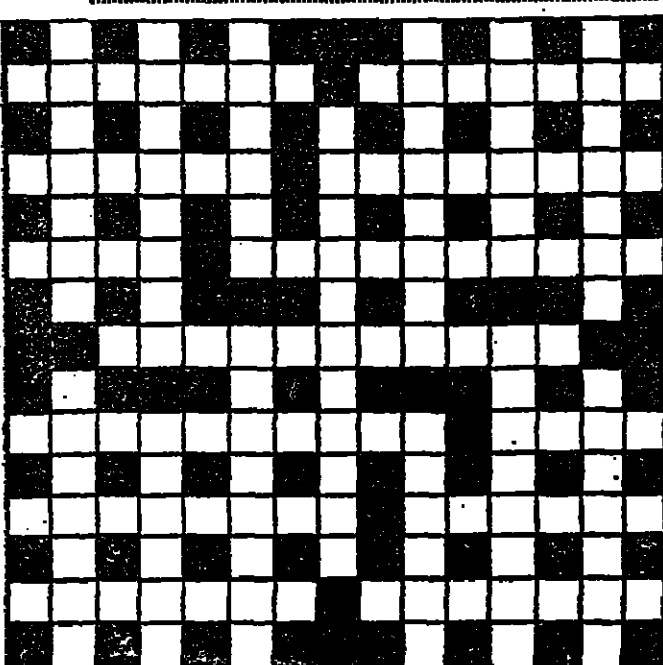
## ALPHABETICAL JIGSAW

## ARAUCHARIA

A £20 cash prize will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution opened, and three book tokens, each of £10, for the next three. Send your entry to Guardian Prize Crossword No. 17,299, The Guardian, 164 Deansgate, Manchester M60 2RR, to arrive not later than first post Thursday next week. Solution and winners' names in The Guardian on Monday, August 5.

Name.....

Address.....



- A, bell that rang elusively in part (7).  
B, ship on the wrong river gets more smart (7).  
C, bond where churchmen to a junction come (6).  
D, instrument left out of cell, drum? (8).  
E, the Dark Lady, topless, is way out (6).  
F, woodwork tool when worry was about (7).  
G, like an old tree sculptured by Legrand (7).  
H, first of all invading furnished land (7).  
I, would bring interest at Mass as priests (11).

- J, girl — yes (Ger.) — catch terriers (men, not beasts) (7).  
K, sounding wanted, after may be rolled (7).  
L, in security, state bird of old (8).  
M, major route which City's fans (say) enter (4, 4).  
N, false clue is innate — group round a centre (8).  
O, act too much: where's rem-fa in tune? (6).  
P, soonly round about the rug too soon (11).  
Q, leave when obligations have been paid (4).  
R, music's ear returns without what's laid (6).  
S, dog or bitch? Dog's tailless, split in six (8).  
T, thermometer, late piece the heat to fix (10).  
U, house with rows in sunset, not the Pope! (10).  
V — by the left — contains some drink or dope (4).  
W, love: hence Watson's dad's doctored slips (5-3).  
X, Persian king who punished waves with whips (6).  
Y, in Colne Valley, place he madly wrecked (7).  
Z, oxide, red, is citizen's effect (7).

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 17,298

Across: 1. BELL, 2. SHIP, 3. BOND, 4. DRUM, 5. LADY, 6. WAY, 7. TOOL, 8. TREE, 9. FIRST, 10. INVADING, 11. FURNISHED, 12. LAND, 13. WOULD, 14. BRING, 15. INTEREST, 16. MASS, 17. PRIESTS.

Down: 1. GIRL, 2. YES, 3. GER., 4. CATCH, 5. TERRIERS, 6. MEN, 7. NOT, 8. BEASTS, 9. SOUNDING, 10. WANTED, 11. AFTER, 12. MAY, 13. BE, 14. ROLLED, 15. IN, 16. SECURITY, 17. STATE, 18. BIRD, 19. OF, 20. OLD, 21. MAJOR, 22. ROUTE, 23. WHICH, 24. CITY'S, 25. FANS, 26. SAY, 27. ENTER, 28. FALSE, 29. CLUE, 30. IS, 31. INNATE, 32. GROUP, 33. ROUND, 34. A, 35. CENTRE, 36. ACT, 37. TOO, 38. MUCH, 39. WHERE'S, 40. REM-F, 41. IN, 42. TUNE, 43. SOONLY, 44. ROUND, 45. ABOUT, 46. THE, 47. RUG, 48. TOO, 49. SOON, 50. LEAVE, 51. WHEN, 52. OBLIGATIONS, 53. HAVE, 54. BEEN, 55. PAID, 56. MUSIC'S, 57. EAR, 58. RETURNS, 59. WITHOUT, 60. WHAT'S, 61. LAID, 62. DOG, 63. OR, 64. BITCH, 65. DOG'S, 66. TAILLESS, 67. SPLIT, 68. IN, 69. SIX, 70. THERMOMETER, 71. LATE, 72. PIECE, 73. THE, 74. HEAT, 75. TO, 76. FIX, 77. HOUSE, 78. WITH, 79. ROWS, 80. IN, 81. SUNSET, 82. NOT, 83. THE, 84. POPE, 85. V, 86. BY, 87. THE, 88. LEFT, 89. CONTAINS, 90. SOME, 91. DRINK, 92. OR, 93. DOPE, 94. W, 95. LOVE, 96. HENCE, 97. WATSON'S, 98. DAD'S, 99. DOCTORED, 100. SLIPS, 101. PERSIAN, 102. KING, 103. WHO, 104. PUNISHED, 105. WAVES, 106. WITH, 107. WHIPS, 108. Y, 109. IN, 110. COLNE, 111. VALLEY, 112. PLACE, 113. HE, 114. MADLY, 115. WRECKED, 116. Z, 117. OXIDE, 118. RED, 119. IS, 120. CITIZEN'S, 121. EFFECT.

## THE WEATHER

## Rain in places

PRESSURE will remain low over the British Isles with further trough of low pressure crossing the south.

London, E. Anglia, SE. Coast S. and SW. England, Midlands, Channel Islands and W. Wales: mainly SW light or moderate rain. Wind: mainly SW light or moderate. Max 18-20C (64-68F).

E. W. Coast and NE. England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NW. Scotland, N. Ireland: mainly SW light or moderate rain. Wind: mainly SW light or moderate. Max 18-20C (64-68F).

SE. Coast, E. Anglia, SE. Coast S. and SW. England, Midlands, Channel Islands and W. Wales: mainly SW light or moderate rain. Wind: mainly SW light or moderate. Max 18-20C (64-68F).

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## AROUND THE WORLD

## Lunch-time forecasts

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